



US Army Corps  
of Engineers.

# wilmington District News

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## Wilmington District supports spectrum of flood control actions

By Penny Schmitt

In a state where flooding causes problems in many ways, the Wilmington District exemplifies the Corps' willingness and ability to work with a variety of agencies to create effective solutions. The District's approach was summed up last year by Doug Greene, project manager for Princeville Dike repair. When a reporter asked him, "is this a small project or a big project for the Corps?" Doug's reply was, "this is a very *important* project for this community!" All our flood control projects are very important to those they protect, from fish and marine life in the Cape Fear River to human homeowners in Princeville and other communities.

### Section 205 projects

An important part of the nation's flood fighting arsenal is available to states, counties and communities under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948. This authority enables the Corps to develop structural and

nonstructural approaches, after doing a feasibility study. The projects must be complete within themselves, offer benefits that exceed the project's costs, and result in a project cost with a federal share of no more than \$7 million. The sponsoring government contributes 35 percent of the financing, and the federal share is 65 percent.

Just three of the projects being conducted by Wilmington District under section 205 include:

- **Burgaw Creek**—The local area around the creek has been subject to very serious flooding during hurricane events, and repeated flooding even during milder weather events. The Corps' project includes such measures as relocating threatened properties and constructing retention ponds for runoff.
- **Atkins Branch**—This waterway, located near Kin-



Local Flooding can save homes like this one through Section 205 projects.

ston in the Neuse River basin, will include some channel improvements to help water move through the stream system.

- **Hominy Swamp**—Located near Wilson, this small project involves installing a culvert under a railroad overpass, and some clearing and snagging work.

"These are not the types of projects people tend to think of as typical of Corps work," said Ron Fascher, of District Planning Services. "They involve what sound like small improvements or changes, yet they can be too

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# Operations Plan points system makes District MORE accountable

Did last fall's race to the wire for the bonus award lead to more easily earned points in this year's plan?

**We constantly watch our planning process**

No. However we have changed our point assignments in our five main mission execution areas, B.J. Suggs reports. The Wilmington District's annual Operations Plan requires the district to meet 17 to 20 pre-set objectives before District TEAM members can receive an annual TEAM bonus award. "We constantly watch our planning process to see that we don't slide into a 'gimme' mindset," said Suggs, the District's Internal Review Officer.

"What people think and say really counts in Wilmington District," she added. "A TEAM member remarked in casual conversation that the 15 points we put against execution should be weighted toward the more demanding parts of our program. As a result, instead of three points for every one of the five major programs, points will be assigned as follows:

- Construction General—5 points
- General Investigations—4 points
- Operations and Maintenance—3 points
- General Regulatory—2 points
- Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies—1 point.

Programs earning the lower number of points almost automatically reach their execution goals because their costs are primarily labor costs. If the TEAM members in those programs do their jobs, they should reach execution goals. Construction General (CG), on the other hand, is our biggest program, and execution depends on highly focussed work by many people in the district. General Investigations is also big business. Together with CG, it makes up about 85 percent of our

program. Operations and maintenance has a smaller budget, but must work hard to execute at the required level.

We know that Regulatory and Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies on the other hand, almost inevitably reach their targets. They can become blockbuster programs in hurricane years, but there's extra credit available to reward those programs for outstanding achievements.

**Emphasis should be firmly on our big programs**

"We feel that the points emphasis should be firmly on our big programs, and should emphasize those areas where executing contracts and coordinating project work requires tight focus on targets," Suggs said.

"This is a significant change," she added. Why? Because without achieving our points in these critical areas, a bonus award would now be very difficult to get. "We have made it critical that we execute our most important tasks. There's no wiggle room, no gimme, and no making up for the best stuff with just good stuff," she said.

Moreover, the point count hasn't adjusted to excuse the District when matters outside our control cause delays in execution. "If getting a document to another agency for approval needs a longer lead time to make sure that the milestones will be met, then delivering 'on time' isn't good enough. We have to respond to the realities of the partnerships and oversight to which we're bound," Suggs said. "The bottom line is that 'out of our control' is not a way we can look at things. We have to bring project and program progressions back into our control."

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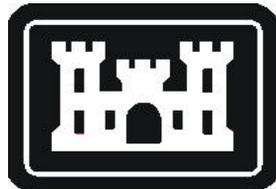
**Address mail to:**

U.S. Army Engineer District,  
Wilmington  
ATTN: CESAW-PA  
P.O. Box 1890  
Wilmington, N.C. 28402-1890

Telephone: (910) 251-4626

Email: Penny.Schmitt@usace.army.mil

Commander and District Engineer ..... COL. James W. DeLony  
Managing Editor and Chief, Public Affairs.....Penelope Schmitt



# Flood control actions continued

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expensive for the budgets of county or regional governments without federal support. Our ability to help can make the difference between chronic flooding problems, and structural and nonstructural changes that improve the community's life."

## Princeville Recovery continues

Wilmington District's newest flood control project centers on the town of Princeville, North Carolina. Hurricane Floyd inundated the historic black community in the fall of 1999. The 500-year level flooding overtopped the community's protective dike.

Under public law 84-99, the Corps has authority to restore flood control structures. So Wilmington's first action was to rebuild the dike, originally built in the 1960s by the District to protect the community from a 300-year level flood (up to last year that was the flood of record in 1919). The refurbished dike, completed before this year's storm season, restores that level of protection. A gravel roadway on top of the dike now supports maintenance vehicles. A stoplog structure that can be installed by two or three workers in less than two hours closes a small dip in the dike at a railway track crossing. Previously, this gap had to be closed with sandbags, an effort that takes many workers and more time—not a good option when water is rapidly rising!

Now, Congress has appropriated \$1.5 million to study added flood protection measures for the Princeville / Tarboro area. The state of North Carolina has appropriated a matching \$1.5 million. The Wilmington District is beginning a study to determine the feasibility of a variety of measures to protect the area. The District and the project sponsors will look at a wide variety

of options including dike modifications, channel diversions, and reservoir sites which could provide not only flood control, but also water supply and water quality benefits in the rapidly growing state.

## Small project, BIG protection

Sometimes flood protection measures are very tightly targeted to prevent major problems from a single source. Wilmington District recently helped an industrial facility located near the Cape Fear River to flood proof itself, thus protecting the river basin from a potentially disastrous flood-induced chemical spill. The Chloride plant received a grant from the Department of Commerce. Working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the industry, the Wilmington District developed conceptual plans for the project, which included a small flood-proofing wall, pumps, and landscaping that would provide environmental benefits. The \$200,000 project, carried out by the plant, now secures it from damage, and the Cape Fear River from a potentially serious spill.

## Where will the water be?

North Carolina has seen rapid expansion over the past fifteen years. Mushrooming cities and coastal development have changed the landscape, and with those changes come new flooding patterns. Storm water runoff from urban pavements and parking lots damages water quality and increases rapid runoff. Homes and



A berm and flood wall protect both the industry and a nearby river.

businesses in vulnerable areas are more likely to get storm and flood damage. Old maps don't clearly show where it's safe to build.

FEMA supports flood plain mapping, but funding is at such a modest level that it would take North Carolina 100 years to update all its maps using FEMA funds. Governor Hunt knew that was not nearly fast enough. He instituted a Cooperative Technical State Flood Mapping Program. "A lot of states are watching this," Ron Fascher said. "It really is an aggressive initiative." The program aims to re-map the entire state by 2009.

The Wilmington District represents the Corps on the Technical Committee, which also includes representatives from county and local governments and two contracting firms who provide mapping services. "We identify programs where we can cost share with counties and state agencies," Fascher said. "For example, we are mapping two tributary river systems of the Cape Fear River for New Hanover County, Prince George and Ness Creeks. We will also update the map for Figure Eight Island."

# Harbor Project:

## *Contractor removes 35,000 cubic yards of rock*

By Penny Schmitt

Five thousand dump trucks! That's the equivalent amount of rock already removed from the Cape Fear River Channel by the Dredge NEW YORK. Working behind the drill barge APACHE, the NEW YORK is scooping up blasted rock and loading it in scows. The scows are depositing the rock in the Wilmington District's Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site.

The NEW YORK uses a huge backhoe to dredge the rock. The backhoes used on large land-based construction projects typically pick up three to four cubic yards of material in a bite. NEW YORK's jaws can bite up to 25 cubic yards at once—three or four dump truck loads full. The 35,000 cubic yards she has already removed amounts to less than 10 percent of the total amount of rock she'll dig up before her work on the Big Island / Keg Island part of the harbor project is complete.

Before NEW YORK dredges, the drill barge APACHE fragments the bedrock at the river bottom using a special type of explosive called POURVEX. The APACHE's three drills reach up to fifty feet down, and set as many as 85 holes for a single blast. The POURVEX is placed in the drill holes and the holes are topped, or stemmed, with packages of crushed gravel. The gravel redirects upward energy, forcing the energy into the solid rock, which fragments into small pieces with minimal effect on the surrounding water. "This way we get maximum efficiency from the energy we are using, as well as minimum effects away

from the intended target area," said Jim Mullins, Resident Engineer for the project.

The Corps has monitored each blast with devices for measuring pressures in the water, and by recording seismic information on instruments at locations within a mile of the barge. "We are very pleased that all our work has stayed within the design targets," Mullins said.

The Corps and its contractor, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, Inc., employed an expert, Emery Gray of Contract Drilling and Blasting, Inc. to design the plan for fragmenting rock. During a recent morning's work, Gray described what would occur. "We set 85 holes for this morning," he said. "But they will not all detonate at the same time." Gray explained that today's technology allows the detonation cords to send their impulses to the drill holes just milliseconds (thousandths of a second) apart. These tiny intervals actually dampen the blast's effects by turning it into several dozen separate events. Spectators standing on the deck of the drill barge just 250 feet away see what looks like an instantaneous one-second spray of white bubbles at the water's surface, and feel a momentary rumble underfoot.

**The dredge NEW YORK lifts up to four dump truck loads in one bite.**



Moments later, a brief upwelling of water occurs. This event, called the 'boil' indicates a highly successful fragmentation of rock. "That boil is the release of gases trapped within the rock," said Bob Pierce, the APACHE's superintendent. "The fact that the river goes on bubbling for a few minutes tells us that we got really good results, and this rock will be easily removed by the NEW YORK." Sure enough, a small area on the surface continued to fizz for fifteen minutes or so, as though a large alka-seltzer tablet lay at the river bottom.

As soon as the barge workers pull in the network of spent det cord from the river, they begin work to start the next set of drill holes. The APACHE completes one or two cycles a day, giving the NEW YORK plenty of work to do.

The APACHE and the NEW YORK will continue to work on the river through January. They will be joined by the cutter-suction dredge TEXAS in January. This powerful dredge is designed to cut rock from the river bed, and will increase the project's pace still more.

For weekly updates of the harbor project, visit our web site at [www.saw.usace.army.mil](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil)

# Harbor Project featured on District WEB site

By Penny Schmitt

Where are the dredges this week? How many cubic yards of material is the Corps going to move? What contracts are out for bid? Answers to all these questions can be found on the Wilmington Harbor Project web page.

To access the page, go to [www.saw.usace.army.mil](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil) and choose either the hotlink from the home page featured during December 2000, or go through the "Wilmington District Links" button on the home page.

Currently, the web page features several different kinds of information on the project. These include:

- **Project Map**—This full color map is in downloadable digital format, and shows each contract area, cubic yardage to be excavated, and project path.

- **Survey data**—The page links to maps showing the four most recent surveys of the river channel. New survey data is uploaded within two hours of comple-

tion!

- **Detailed project information**—Summary information detailing all aspects of the project is available here.

- **News stories**—News releases, articles and summaries of published news stories on the project are available in downloadable format.

- **Upcoming events**—News of scheduled public events or upcoming media coverage of project activities.

- **Historic Highlights**—The US Army Corps of Engineers has been doing important work to maintain navigation on the Cape Fear River since the end of the Civil War. Visit this section to learn more about 'The Rocks' and previous channel deepening projects.

- **Weekly Project Update**—Each Tuesday evening, the weeks activities on the project are added. The information is presented 'by

contract'—that is, by the reach of the river being excavated by a single contractor.

More areas of information will be added in coming weeks. Look out for photos of project operations. Information about upcoming news and events associated with the project will also be published. Readers can also find information about environmental aspects of the project, and facts about the various species being protected through the project's environmental plan. The page currently links to the North Carolina State Ports Home Page. Links to the US Coast Guard, natural resources agencies, and other organizations associated with the project will be added.

The project page master is Penny Schmitt, whose email address is posted on the page. Your questions and comments and requests for added information are most welcome!

## PMBP Imperative #7:

*The Deputy for Project Management has programmatic oversight for all work*

By Steve Aiken

**W**hat did that headline say? Go back and read it again. Think what it really is telling you. In your life away from work—I hope you have one!—there is someone who is responsible for or has oversight for everything you do. The same holds true here at work.

Let's take a look at how we in the Corps operate. We know that we have project managers for all our projects, and we have them by default in those areas we don't see as projects, but really are. That's things like an office move or a generator installation. Beyond the project manager, someone has to be

responsible for the big picture, and that's where imperative #7 comes in.

The Project Management Business Process (PMBP) has established the Deputy for Project Management (DPM) as the senior civilian in our organization. That person is the TEAM leader for our senior staff. This doesn't mean that the DPM makes resource decisions in a vacuum. Rather, he or she works with senior staff to make the best decisions for the good of the Corps and the District's entire program—all of it.

Even those projects—like the office move—that don't have a project manager within Programs and

Project Management Division must still be in front of the DPM and the senior staff if all the work is to be considered when resources decision are made.

Consider how many decisions have to be made just in the management of a single project. Multiply that one hundred times and you get a feel for how much information is involved in the day to day oversight of the Wilmington District's program. So the next time you wonder just what our DPM, Eugene Tickner, does, and why he is turning gray, you have the answer! He has programmatic oversight for all our work, in addition to his other full time functions.

# New Chief empowers us to “Just DO it!”

By COL James W. DeLony

In the coming days, all of you will be viewing a videotape entitled **Meet the Chief**--LTG Flowers' first talk with us as his TEAM.

I have served with LTG Flowers, and have known him for many years. He has an abundance of ‘the right stuff’ to be our Chief at this important time for the Corps. What he says has great value for every one of us. I ask each of you to listen carefully and think through how you plan to live up to the level of dedication and commitment this great soldier and leader is challenging us for the coming years.

## Just DO it!

As you watch the video, you'll see the Chief take time to bring out his pen and personally sign that “Just DO it!” card. You all own that card. Please take it to heart. The Chief says he expects it “takes about six months for an organization to reflect the personality of its leader.” He wants us “to get used to the ‘Just DO it!’ card, to being empowered . . .”

First, this District *is* empowered! Your years of shaping our destiny through the Operations Planning process sets you apart as one of the most self-directed TEAMS in the Corps. But that's no reason to kick back. Each of us knows we can do more to use that empowerment in our daily work.

Second, get used to the ‘Just DO it!’ card! In fact, get so familiar with that card that you can't help but work according to the operating principles listed on the front and the back of it. Let me discuss two which might call for some searching thought.

**Be situationally aware:** If you don't look at anything more than the traffic lights you can wreck in the intersection. Being situationally aware means that you maintain at-

tention to what's coming around the corner. Know what's going on in the Corps as a whole. Seek to know what other forces are at play in the communities or regions where you have a project. Understand the issues that your TEAM members or partners or customers face. Awareness isn't easy, but it is critical!

## Is it legal and ethical? . . . am I willing to be accountable?:

This is the other part of the “Just DO it!” card that requires your constant, dedicated attention. We enjoy the highest reputation because we have been accountable and we have operated on the highest ethical standards through hurricanes, and major projects. That standard of integrity is the foundation for all we do. Our engineering and other skills and expertise have value to the extent that our customers and stakeholders feel unshakable confidence in the integrity with which we use those abilities. Each one of us is personally a custodian of the reputation we all share.

## The Chief's goals for us:

As you watch and listen to the video, think about how we in Wilmington District are already living up to the goals the Chief sets.

Here is the Chief's bottom line. “Four years from now people will look back and say the Corps is providing excellence with integrity, that we've been wise advocates for water resources, that we've been excellent stewards of the environment, that we always sought consensus, and we did what was right.”

Look around our great district, and you will see that those goals are being realized today! There's a lot of great work going on inside our boundaries. The scope of what

## What's YOUR 30-second sound bite?



LTG Robert Flowers, the new Chief of Engineers, wants everyone in the Corps to have a ‘30-second commercial’ or sound bite, that describes what their job with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Here's LTG Flowers' 30 seconds:

*“My name is Bob Flowers, and I'm very proud to be the 50<sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers. I lead an organization that's made up of some very dedicated soldiers and civilians, some 35,000 or so, who are working around the world for the Army and this nation. And there isn't any job you can give us that we can't accomplish.”*

What's your 30-second commercial? Please email your 30-second sound bite to penny.schmitt@usace.army.mil for publication in our newsletter!

you all are doing is a great source of pride and just plain amazement.

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## “Just DO it!” continued

If you lay the Chief's goals over our Command Philosophy and our BASICS, I believe you'll see that these templates are totally compatible with one other, and each reinforces the other.

Here is how I see our operating principles match up:

### LTG Flowers

### Wilmington District

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Do what is right</i>          | -Be/Know/Do what you feel is right<br>-Do your best<br>-DO/Achieve the mission   |
| <i>Excellence with Integrity</i> | -We will not compromise quality<br>-Respect for the dignity of others is immutable   |
| <i>Seek consensus</i>            | -We will always listen to customer needs and concerns.<br>-TEAM work is essential.<br>-Constantly focus on enhancing the trust and confidence of the TEAM.<br>-Posture for the future; empower change. |

The kind of work we do unquestionably matches the Chief's mission goals too. Here are a few examples:

### *Advocates for*

#### *Water Resources*

- Streambed management
- Neuse River Basin Study
- Lockwoods Folly water quality study
- Flood plain mapping
- Wilmington Harbor Project
- Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

### *Environmental Stewardship*

- EPA award-winner Battery Island Bird Habitat project
- Oak Island Turtle Habitat project
- Harbor project special features and Environmental monitoring
- Kerr Lake Section 216 study

The bottom line is, I believe we are all on track with the Chief's Intent. Our job in the coming weeks and months is to stay on track and keep doing our jobs with the highest standards of integrity and excellence!

## IM prepares for move to MS Office 2000 and Exchange/Outlook

By Anthony Josey

The Information Management Department has been busy working to prepare for the upcoming transition to MS 2000 and Exchange/Outlook. The change is part of a Corps-wide mandate to bring consistency to our software and e-mail.

Currently, Windows 95/98 and Windows NT are the district's standard operating systems. It is anticipated that we will migrate to the Windows 2000 operating system in fiscal year 2002.

MS 2000 will replace MS Office 97, and Exchange/Outlook version 5.5 will replace Lotus Notes. There are some similarities between the two systems. MS Office 2000 is backward compatible

to Office 97. One issue does occur with the Access program. Once a database is converted to Access 2000, it will no longer be executable to users with Access 97.

Information Management has already purchased 425 MS Office 2000 licenses that will include the licenses for Exchange/Outlook at \$131 each. These costs will be billed to each office depending on the number of personal computers.

Information Management will deploy the systems by building quadrants. Each quadrant will take about one month to convert. Field Offices, resident offices, regulatory offices and vessels will be done after the District Headquar-

ters building has been completed. Information Management anticipates two months for the outside sites.

First Quadrant scheduled for January is Training room, Library, Mailroom, Planning and Environmental Sections, Internal Review Office, Design, Cost Engineering, Coastal and H&H and Geotechnical Services departments. The other quadrants will be done from February through April. The remainder of the inside offices will be completed in May and June. The entire process is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2001.

Look for information about your office's conversion in future issues of the newsletter.

# District TEAM shows generosity in many ways

By Penny Schmitt

Whether they are packing shoeboxes with holiday delights for a child, shopping for an ‘angel’, donating to the Combined Federal Campaign, creating bake sale goodies, or giving blood, Wilmington District TEAM members seem to have a positive passion for giving. In a world of bad news, here’s some of the good news created by our folks in the year 2000.

## **Blood Donors give more life in 2000**

Five area hospitals benefit from blood donated to the Cape Fear Chapter of the American Red Cross. This year, Wilmington District Office staff added one more blood drive to their busy schedules, for a total of three this year. Between 26 and 32 pints of blood were collected at each bloodmobile visit.

Speaking at the annual ‘thank you’ lunch for sponsoring organizations, Harvard Jennings of WAAV urged everyone to remember that we can’t easily calculate what he calls the ‘healing impact’ of giving blood. “You give *survival*” he said. He urged men, women, and people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to participate. He reminded us that some people have hereditary or ethnically-linked illnesses like hemophilia or sickle-cell anemia that make their need for survival through blood products ‘routine.’

Jennings called giving blood a proactive way to save life. “We also need to do reactive things to reduce the unnecessary spilling of blood in America!” Many of the other organizations and activities Wilmington District staff members support do just that-- promoting peace and safety in our community. We encourage every healthy person who is able to consider making 2001 their year to add the proactive step—give the gift of life. Give blood!

## **Shoebboxes bring smiles**

Once again this year, Rolando Serrano, of Construction Branch, headed up a drive to collect Christmas shoeboxes full of small toys and other items for needy children. Just before Thanksgiving, grey cardboard boxes disappeared from the hall table, to return days later wrapped in bright paper and filled with fun for a small girl or boy who might otherwise miss out on the holidays. Thanks Rolando and all who participated in this miniaturized celebration of delights!

## **Angels adopted by District Offices**

By Diane Greene

Christmas this year for eight children under protective services at the New Hanover Department of Social

Services will be very special. AFGE Local #406 sponsored an angel tree project and the entire district participated. The project was a huge success, everyone was eager to help, and help they did!

Diane Lastinger, Diane Greene, and Dianne Boswell delivered the gifts to the Department of Social Services.

We also delivered clothes to be given to the children as they are placed in foster care, since, quite often, they enter a foster home with nothing but the clothes on their backs. The social workers were very appreciative of the tremendous effort put forward to brighten the holidays for these children.

I attended the Christmas party held that evening for the children, and there were at least 200 or more kids from newborns to teens around the room. As I looked around the room, my thoughts were “I truly hope that all of the children will be as happy as the ones we sponsored!” If you asked me what I wanted for Christmas, my response would be “I want all parents to be loving, caring, protective, and responsible.” If that happened, every day would be a holiday for me, and I know in my heart of hearts that the children would feel the same.

To the Union and the District, I thank you and may all your endeavors in life be joyous, prosperous, and happy!

## **Combined Federal Campaign does it again!**

By Anthony Josey

Hats off to the District for another outstanding year of contributions to the Combined Federal Campaign. The goal for this year was \$22,000. The District came in slightly short of that target, bringing the grand finale to \$20,628. It is a remarkable feat by anyone’s standard. In fact, the District again received a “Gold” award which is given to agencies with average gifts of more than \$100.

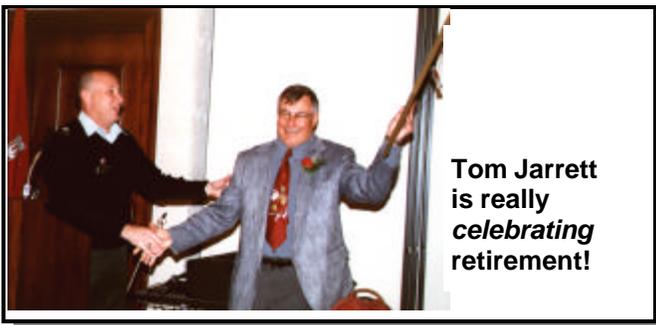


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## Farewells mark year's end—

*The end of the year 2000 brings significant departures from the District TEAM, as long-time staff members retire after distinguished careers.*

### Tom Jarrett, coastal engineering expert, retires after 34 years with the Corps



Dubbed “Sand Man Tom,” in his colleagues’ farewell song, Tom Jarrett has indeed become a nationally-known expert in coastal engineering during his 34 years with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Jarrett spent all but two of those years in Wilmington District, with a brief assignment at the Corps’ Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi, during the 70s.

Over the years, Jarrett has contributed vitally to studies and projects that include the Bald Head Island and Brunswick Beaches project, Morehead City and Wilmington Harbor Deepening Projects, the Oregon Inlet Project, Masonboro Inlet and Fort Fisher projects. He also worked on the storm damage reduction projects at Wrightsville, Carolina and Kure Beaches.

The States of North Carolina and Florida have called on him to serve on task forces related to projects and coastal issues. In 1997, the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association presented him with the Jim Purpura / T.Y. Chiu Engineering Award. Upon his retirement, Jarrett will join the board of the North Carolina Shore and Beach Preservation Association.

The great respect in which Jarrett is held was best expressed by John Morris, Director of Water Quality Division for the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Morris presented Jarrett with the Governor’s Order of the Long Leaf Pine saying, “Although many Americans vocally criticize their government, we all remain aware that the rest of the world’s citizens would be eager and grateful to have our form of government.”

“The most important things a good government can offer are—continuity, steadiness, purpose, professional expertise, and customer service. The US Army Corps of Engineers offers these qualities. Tom Jarrett is one of the reasons why. When people like Tom become institutions in our government agencies, we have all those five important things. North Carolina is a better state because of his efforts!”

### Andrew Duncan, Operations Manager at W. Kerr Scott Lake for more than 24 years

“When I came here in June 1976,” Andy Duncan told a local reporter, “the campsites and picnic areas here were in deteriorating condition. We started a major renovation project and we are still doing it!”

Evidence of Duncan’s 24 and a half years of continuous upgrades are all around at the beautiful W. Kerr Scott Lake facilities. The jewel in a crown of many achievements is the new, 7,800 square-foot Visitor Assistance Center overlooking the lake. The center features an area of interactive displays that recount the human and natural history of the reservoir area.

Improved land management, including selective timber harvesting, and management of lands and waters to promote game and fish populations, are also an

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## District TEAM shows generosity, CFC continued

*(Continued from page 8)*

Jim Butler, who headed up the campaign, thanked the District for answering the call once again. He admits that we may have overshot our goal a little by not comparing the actual number of individual participants that contributed last year to those who gave this year.

Last year’s performance exceeded its goal by a 20 percent margin. Possibly that’s because of the close relationships District employees developed working with victims of the recent disasters.

This year’s strategy for the District was to reach 100 percent of the TEAM and to give each person the

opportunity to contribute. The volunteers played a key role in making the personal contacts and getting commitments returned in a timely manner.

One thing is sure, the District certainly puts their wallet where their heart is!

## Farewells continued

**Col DeLony presents Andy Duncan a Commander's award.**



*(Continued from page 9)*

important accomplishment. Duncan himself is a forester, with a degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management from the University of Georgia. He began his career as a forester at Fort Bragg in 1963, did similar work at Fort Jackson, South Carolina until he joined the Corps in 1976.

Visitorship at Scott has grown to about a million visits a year to the 1,475-acre lake and surrounding lands. With increasing visitorship, efforts to ensure public safety at the lake have intensified. "We have tried to be a leader in Water Safety efforts through programs for school groups, day camps and civic organizations. We have formed partnerships with other agencies and organizations through our Wilkes Recreational Safety Council to promote recreational and water safety." Last year, Scott Lake was the scene of a Water Safety Forum that drew recreation managers from a multi-state area to study water safety techniques and programs.

"Word gets around that we are attentive to the needs of people," Duncan said. The popularity and beauty of the W. Kerr Scott project are a testimony to Duncan's great leadership over the years. All of Andy's fellow team members hope that he and his wife, Seiglinde, will visit the lake often with their five grandchildren and their families!

### Captain Wuestfeld Retires

*By Fred Lehman*

Russell G. Wuestfeld, Master of the sidecast dredge MERRITT will retire on January 2<sup>nd</sup> after more than 35 years service in the Corps of Engineers. "Captain Russ," as he is known, will be remembered as one of the old breed captains of our fleet. Known for his strength of character, high principle, and energetic spirit of seamanship, Captain Russ will be missed by his peers and former crew members.

Russ joined our district dredging fleet in 1983 as Master of the Dredge FRY, when that vessel transferred here from Philadelphia District. He had been Captain of the FRY since 1975. No stranger to the

dredging industry, Wuestfeld began his Corps career in 1965 as 3rd Mate on the dredge ESSAYONS, at that time the largest seagoing Hopper Dredge in the world.

Captain Russ was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up around the maritime environment of Long Island Sound, being an avid boater and marine worker in his youth. He graduated from the Maine Marine Academy in 1964 with a Bachelor of Nautical Science and 3rd Mate Ocean Unlimited License. He also received a reserve commission in the US Navy, which he held for ten years.

He worked for a year on the AT&T Cable Ship LONG LINES, laying undersea telephone cable in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, before being hired by the Philadelphia District. Russ was actually a part of the Corps Family earlier than that. His father was Assistant Chief of Operations in New York District, retiring in 1973 after 42 years of service.

Captain Wuestfeld built a reputation as a tough, durable, no-nonsense officer during his years with our dredging fleet. He was also known for many years of unselfish community service as a certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and Emergency Medical Instructor. He did volunteer work on his community ambulance and served as an aide in the Emergency Room of his local hospital and a CPR instructor for the American Heart Association. He is presently a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, teaching boat safety courses and working on safety patrols.

Captain Russ now lives in Gloucester County, Virginia, on the York River. He and his wife, the former Julia Margaret Edgecomb, of Leicester, England, have five children and eight grandchildren. He looks forward to spending time with his family, and on his hobbies, which include model trains, stamp collecting, boating and fishing. He also intends to work part time in the marine industry!

Captain, your shipmates wish you best of luck and happiness in your well-earned retirement. You will be missed, because "you done good!"

### Laurie Morris, Survey Tech, retires

*By Fred Lehman*

Survey Technician Laurie Morris, a crewman on the survey vessel BEAUFORT at Morehead City Yard, has retired after exactly 25 years service. He served on district vessels from November 3d, 1975 until November 3d, 2000.

Laurie spent ten years as a deckhand on the Snagboat SNELL, another year on the Dredge SCHWEIZER, and 14 years on the BEAUFORT. He now spends his time doing volunteer humanitarian work around his home on Harkers Island, North Carolina. He also is active as a musician at his church.

Enjoy your retirement, Laurie!

# New Faces to the District

By Anthony Josey

## New Employees:

### Larry Calame, Port Captain-

Larry comes to the Wilmington District after spending 18 years in the Portland District. He has also worked in the New Orleans District. Larry and wife Marie have two children, Alysa age 10 and Casey age 8.



### Christine Bruske, Public Affairs Specialist-

Christine joins the Public Affairs Office after several years as the Director of Communications in the North Carolina House of Representatives and on Capital Hill. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Affairs Journalism and a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. She is a Veteran of the US Army.

She has travel extensively throughout her career to Europe and the Middle East.



## New Students:

**Marilyn McAllister**, student aide in Security-Marilyn is a student at Mt. Olive University. She was recently employed with the Federal Probation's Jacksonville Office.

Marilyn plans to pursue a career in Law Enforcement with the Federal Government. She and her husband have four children.



- ◆ **Carl and Aimee Smalley** are the proud parents of a daughter, **Emma Rose**. She was born December 8 at 6:17 PM weighing in at 8lbs. 4oz.
- ◆ **Margo Duckson**, daughter of **R.C. "Duck" Duckson**, Asst. Operations Mgr. At B.E. Jordan Lake, recently led her volleyball team to a second-place finish in the Harnett-Lee Middle School Conference. Margo scored a school record 211 points.
- ◆ **Sherrel Bunn** of the Contracting Office recently became a new grandmother. **Sydney Paige Morris** was born November 28 and weighed 8lbs 10ozs. Parents, **Will and Jill Morris** are excited about her arrival.
- ◆ **Good Samaritan Award: Lynn and Sheila Jack** found a wallet on Veterans Day outside of the Library at Landfall. It contained \$200 and numerous credit cards. Through their diligent efforts, they located the elderly lady and returned the wallet and it's contents. To show her gratitude, the lady rewarded them with a beautiful azalea that was sent to their home.
- ◆ **Jessica Figgins**, captured All-Conference first team honors on the Hoggard Tennis Team. **Jessica** is the daughter of **Sheila Figgins**.

## Speaking Out!

- **B.J. Suggs** made a presentation to the Senior Leadership of the Chicago District on the SAW Operations Plan/ Team Bonus Award Program. B.J. spent two days in Chicago with District Leaders.
- **James (JIM) Sterling** participated in an orientation seminar for New District and Division Counsels in Washington, D.C. Jim spoke to the group about, "Counsel's Role in the Project Management Business Process."
- **Bobby L. Willis** gave a presentation at Wayne Community College on "Floodproofing." His presentation came at the request of Wayne Community College and the NC Division of Emergency Management.

# RETIREE NEWS



**By Bob Swart**

There were 17 folks in attendance at this month's gathering. Once again this year a nice chill in the air reminded us of the holiday season. The early snow makes us wonder what winter will be like. Maybe we will get a chance to use up some of the fire wood recent stormy years have provided!

The following retirees and spouses were present: Virginia Uzzell, Jean and Dan Grimsley, Max Grimes, Edith and Jim Vithalani, Kay and Buddy Johnson, Doris and Ken Old, Lawrence Crawley, Bettye and Bob Swart, Joe Lewis, and Henry Jerome. Joe and Henry made it their business to sit together, with Henry stating that maybe some of Joe's money management capabilities would rub off on him. After all, this is getting close to the end of the year, and accounting time is drawing near. I

suspect that these two fellows could share some knowledge with each other in this matter.

Folks have been moving around some. Max made his annual camping trip to the mountains during Thanksgiving week and had a grand time. Snow was on the ground and the hiking and sleeping in the sleeping bag was good because of the cold weather. Max did not do any hunting, just enjoyed the scenery. Virginia Uzzell recently stayed at the 2000-room Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. Sounds like one could get lost in that place! Betty and Bob made a quick trip to Raleigh immediately following the snow to pick up their daughter, Candy, who had flown out to spend Thanksgiving with her husband, Brian. Snow interrupted the Swart's trip, and Candy stayed with friends in Raleigh until they could get through.

Bob Doetsch just celebrated his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday and 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. He seems to have weathered all these years very well. Congratulations Bob! Jim Vithalani arrived home a couple days earlier than expected from India. Edith

said she had made some plans for his homecoming but he arrived too soon. She did not go into any details. Jim said he came home early because he missed the DOGS. He did say the family in India were not pleased Edith wasn't with him.

Something was said at the table about baby sitting grandchildren. Jean Grimsely said she had the privilege of sitting for her "grandbird" which belongs to her daughter. Doris Old stated that she had the privilege to sit with her "granddogs." These retirement years can be interesting!

Here's a correction on last month's news: That was Buck *Norwood* who joined us last month, and he spent time in Iran, rather than Saudi Arabia. Sorry about that!

We certainly hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season. Let us know what has been happening. Come join us on the first Thursday of the month at the Pier 20 Restaurant on College Road. We are still waiting to hear from you folks out there in the field. See you there or let us hear from you!

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT,  
WILMINGTON  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 1890  
WILMINGTON, N.C. 28402-1890



**Wilmington  
District News**