

Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 22, Number 4

July - August 2002



US Army Corps
of Engineers.
Wilmington District

Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 22, Number 4
July - August 2002

Wilmington District News is an unofficial publication authorized under the AR 360-1. It is published monthly by U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, reproduced, and circulated through distribution to CESAW employees. Submission of articles, photos, letters, and graphic arts of interest to the general readership is encouraged. Letters to the editor are welcome. All manuscripts are subject to editing and rewriting prior to publication. Deadline for submission of copy is the eighth of each month. All photos are official U.S. Army photos unless otherwise stated. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Printed circulation: 750.

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. Charles R. Alexander

Chief, Public Affairs:

Penelope Schmitt

Managing Editor:

Christine Bruske

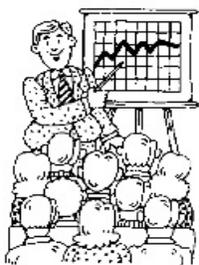
Layout and Design:

Susan Benton
The Graphic Triangle
Rocky Point, North Carolina

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Commander's Corner | Page 1 |
| Corps Regulators | Page 2 |
| Drought | Page 4 |
| Securing Our Homeland | Page 6 |
| Hurricane Season is Here | Page 9 |
| Corps to Study Tar River | Page 10 |
| New TEAM Members | Page 11 |
| Corps Family News | Page 12 |
| Retiree News | Page 13 |

Speaking Out



David Franklin of the Wilmington Regulatory Office was a featured speaker at the Summer Seminar sponsored by the Carolinas Chapter of the International Right of Way Association. David discussed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program as it relates to Right of Way.

Hydraulic Engineer **Eric Farr** presented the Wilmington District Drought Management Plan for the five Corps-operated reservoirs at the North Carolina Drought Conference. Eric also made this presentation to the Lower Cape Fear River Program at the UNC-W Marine Science Center.

John H. Kerr Ranger **Sherrie Storm** gave water safety education training to 52 children at the South Hill Library and 35 children at the Sanford Memorial Baptist Church.

David Lekson of the Washington Regulatory Office conducted a 3-day Wetlands Delineation Course for members of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the North Carolina Division of Water Quality, and the Wilmington District Regulatory Division.

Student Trainee **Dana Lee** presented three water safety programs to 25 children during Vacation Bible School at Edward's Hill Friends Church in Bonlee, NC.

Kevin Yates of the Wilmington Regulatory Office is the winner of the fourth quarter safety slogan contest.



Cover Photo: U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander Roger Bullock (right) and Lieutenant JG Jason Goodman during a Homeland Security Training Exercise conducted at the North Carolina State Port in Wilmington. Roger Bullock is the dive coordinator for the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Navigation Branch. See story on page 6. Photo by Scott Maners

Commander's Corner



Fellow Wilmington Team Members,

It is a privilege and honor to serve as the commander of Wilmington District. My family and I were welcomed with open arms and truly feel at home. It is hard to believe that two months have passed since I took the District colors. Time flies when you are having fun so I guess this is a good thing.

Summers are traditionally busy months, and for my family it has been particularly busy. With school starting and finally moving into a home, I hope to establish some routine in life and spend more time getting to know all of you. I realize that it will take some time for me to get to every office and project site and to meet with our customers and stakeholders. Bear with me....I will get there.

I think it is important you know what makes me tick and how I operate. We, in the military, call this our command philosophy. My philosophy is not unlike Colonel Delony's and General Flowers, but it does represent what I personally consider important. My philosophy was developed as a company commander and reinforced as a battalion commander. While I fine-tuned it to be relevant to this organization, the basic tenets remain unchanged. These are:

- Know and Do your job.
- Be a professional.
- Remember who you are.
- Teamwork is a force multiplier.

Know and Do your job. You are the subject matter expert. Be the best at what you do, every day. Strive to improve while meeting personal and organizational goals, the needs of a changing environment, and evolving customer requirements.

Be a professional. Conduct yourself in a manner consistent with the position you hold. Embrace Army Values as you focus on the Corps Vision and fulfilling our Mission.

Remember who you are. You are a member of a proud organization- the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps, rich in history and tradition, is respected at community, State, and National levels. Wilmington District is no exception. Take pride in what you represent and who you are... an integral member of a winning team. Our customers and our Nation hold us to a high standard.

TEAMWORK is a force multiplier. The synergy of our individual efforts, focused on achieving common goals and objectives, is a powerful force. An organization comprised of competent, courteous, and respected professionals, joined together in selfless service and common purpose, forges a cohesive and powerful team leading to an intensely rewarding organization and work environment.

I hope you find that I am fair, open-minded, and consistent in my actions. I consider myself to be approachable and accessible. Please come up and talk to me when we cross paths and share your thoughts and ideas. I believe in empowerment and have full trust and confidence in all my leaders, supervisors, and employees. There are two areas that I do consider non-negotiable and you need to know them. First, integrity is everything. Compromise it and you cannot get it back. Second, everyone is to be treated with dignity and respect. I fully ascribe to our Army values Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. This is an Army organization and we all have a duty to internalize and embrace these values. I promise all of you that I will always be honest with you and everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.

Again, it is an honor to be your commander. I am new to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For over 23 years I've been a soldier and led great combat engineer soldiers. Today, I am still soldiering and consider you all my soldiers. Together, we soldiers can do great things. Thanks for all you do to make Wilmington District a great place to serve our country.

Essays!
Ray Alexander

(L to R) Kevin Yates, Tom Farrell and Angie Pennock of the Wilmington Regulatory Office examine soil samples extracted with an auger, one of several steps used to determine the existence of a "wetland."
Photo by Scott Maners



90 Degrees in the Shade

A Day in the Life of an Army Corps Regulator

By Thomas Farrell

It is 90 degrees in the shade and Angie Pennock and Kevin Yates are sloshing along the edge of a tupelo swamp in southeastern North Carolina. The discomfort of the heat is nothing compared to the mosquitoes and chiggers that are really nasty today. Soon, Angie and Kevin turn their backs to the tupelos and walk away from the water. As they get farther from the swamp, the standing water disappears and the ground elevation rises ever so slightly. As water becomes less evident, Angie and Kevin notice that the plant community is changing. The tupelo trees give way to black gums and hollies. Eventually, fetterbush and gallberry shrubs dominate the landscape.

As the distance from the swamp increases, the landscape shows even more signs of transition from watery swamp to dry land. This draws Angie and Kevin's attention to the ground. They stop briefly to check each other's backs for ticks, which have been

dropping out of the vegetation all day. Angie then grabs her auger, a 4-ft metal bar that resembles a giant corkscrew, and thrusts it into the soil. She turns the handle to drive the auger's blade into the ground then quickly yanks out a core of sediment. Angie closely examines the soil. She extracts a sample of black, greasy muck from the soil and gently rubs it between her fingers.

By now, the curiosity of almost any observer would be piqued: Two people skirting the edge of a hot, muddy swamp are fighting off insects and ticks while taking the time to look at plants and squeeze the soil.... "What in the world," the observer might ask, "are a couple of nice folks like you doing in a place like this?"

As Army Corps regulators, they would reply: "Looking for the Corps' jurisdiction."

Angie and Kevin are project managers with the Army Corps of Engineers' regulatory program in Wilmington. The

scenario described above is a common activity of regulatory program team members, whose jobs include the regulation of activities in many of our nation's wetland ecosystems.

What wetlands do we regulate and where are they? Believe it or not, that's a long and complex story. The limits of any regulatory agency are defined in their jurisdiction. The Corps receives its regulatory capacity mainly from two Federal sources: the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and the Clean Water Act.

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act authorizes us to regulate navigable waters to ensure that our waterways maintain their navigability and capacity to support commerce. Section 10 waters include major tidal and nontidal waters to the limits of their navigability or to their high tide marks or ordinary high water lines. Section 10 waters generally include the oceans to their legal limits, bays, rivers and their tributaries, and certain major lakes.

The Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972 and its main purpose is to maintain and restore the quality of our nation's waters. The act gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the main authority for carrying out the intent of the legislation. Through Section 404 of the act, EPA has delegated to the Corps the task of regulating activities in jurisdictional wetlands. The so-called 404 wetlands include all kinds of swamps, bogs, marshes, wet prairies, and floodplains that extend from major waterways. In other words, 404 wetlands are wetlands that extend from the Section 10 waters that we already regulate.

Okay, you say. How does that explain the digging and plant hunting that the regulators seem to enjoy so much? That comes down to determining where the wetlands are and whether they are in our jurisdiction. In a very real sense, the Corps' wetland jurisdiction to a regulatory project manager is like the truth to an X Files investigator: it's out there. Out there in the field that is.

To a Corps regulator, a wetland is land that is wet long enough to support a prevalence of plants adapted for life in saturated soils. That definition merges three major components of the natural landscape that must be analyzed before a wetland in Corps jurisdiction can be identified. Those components are plants, soils, and water.

The driving force in making a wetland is the landscape's hydrology, or the length of time that water is at or near the surface. This is because the water affects the ground surface by removing oxygen from the soil. When that happens, only plants that are tolerant of the lowered oxygen levels can grow in the soil. The prolonged presence of water also affects the soil itself. Fortunately, the environmental conditions that create wetlands leave standardized clues that regulators can key in on to make identification easier. Many clues are given in maps and geological surveys of the land. Confirmation of wetland status, however, often must be made on site.

The hunt for field clues that help identify jurisdictional wetlands is a major job of regulatory project managers in Corps regulatory offices all over the country. We look for the clues created when water spends a significant amount of time at or near the land surface. Is water still present on our site? If not, what can the soils' colors and textures tell us? Are they dark or

plotchy in characteristic ways that indicate that water lingered at the surface? Do the soils contain muck, a dark oozy substance found in many wetlands? How slick does it feel when rubbed? Does the site support water-



Corps regulators must be able to identify plants that help indicate the jurisdictional status of a wetland.

tolerant plants? If so, will our observations and calculations show them to be dominant over upland species? The clues are varied, but the fieldwork usually gives us the information we need to find the "404 wetland line," the boundary between non-regulated uplands and wetlands in Corps jurisdiction.

Sooner or later (usually on a bright day with balmy temperatures and no bugs) every regulator hears someone

who is unfamiliar with the regulatory program say something like, "Gee, it must be nice to get paid to walk in the woods!" That's when the regulator must choose one of two possible replies

Reply Option No. 1: This is where we take a serious route and explain that determining our jurisdiction is just the beginning of a complex process. Eventually, a landowner might want to perform an activity that requires Corps authorization. We'll need to determine if the authorization will be in the form of one or more of our more than 40 general permits. Or will it be an individual permit? If so, we need to write and publish a public notice, which starts a coordination process that can involve negotiations with several other agencies to evaluate the project's potential to affect endangered species, essential fish habitat, or historical and other resources. We'll need to negotiate with the applicant to avoid and minimize wetland impacts. If compensatory mitigation is necessary, we need to establish what and how much is needed. To justify our Federal decision, we'll need to write an environmental assessment and a statement of findings to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. Eventually, we'll need to write the permit in a manner that clearly describes the project and to write special permit conditions that are understandable and enforceable. The list goes on and on.

Reply Option No. 2: We go along with the joke and declare that it's a tough job, but someone's gotta do it.

Usually, Reply No. 2 is easier. Besides, it saves time that would be better spent doing all the items listed in Reply No. 1.



Regulators measure the depth of "muck" to determine the characteristics of a wetland.

Drought, The Slow Disaster

By Penny Schmitt

Drought creeps up on you, one beautiful sunny day after another. It's a slowly unfolding disaster that many people don't even notice. The drought that's parching Wilmington District and many other parts of the United States this summer has been around for four years, and there's still no end in sight. Fortunately, the Corps and other agencies in the Virginia-North Carolina area have been both far-sighted and proactive. The result? Water is scarce, but the situation is not nearly as disastrous as it might have been without planning and cooperation.

Last fall, Wilmington District initiated weekly conference calls with all the stakeholders in the Roanoke River Basin.

Since then, the calls have been expanded to include the Cape Fear River Basin, the Neuse River Basin, and the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin.

Who's on the line? Besides representatives from the North Carolina and Virginia Divisions of Water Resources, the US Geological Survey, and the National Weather Service, callers include many whose needs are urgent, and sometimes in conflict with one another. In the Roanoke River basin alone, stakeholders include a wide variety of interests. Here are a few:

- A fisheries manager from the State of North Carolina watches the river intently to see flows are healthy for striped bass.
- A water system manager from



A Dock and Pontoon Boat sit on dry land at John H. Kerr Reservoir. The lake level is 5.6 feet lower than normal. Photo by Wilson Tharrington

Henderson, North Carolina, worries that his intake may become ineffective if reservoir levels drop too far.

- A state parks official will have to close recreation areas and boat ramps if the lake goes below 296 feet above mean sea level.
- An industry manager knows that too little flow from the reservoirs could allow salt water to come upstream and foul his equipment.
- A representative from the Southeastern Power Administration needs to keep generating low-cost hydropower for his customers.
- Owners of reservoir-based

marinas will lose business and maybe their livelihood with another summer of low lake levels.

Rain, and lots of it, is the only real solution to their various problems. "Over the past four years, we have had about as much rain as we would normally expect to have over a three-year period," said Terry Brown, Wilmington District's Water Control Manager. "So we are literally a year behind on rain to replenish groundwater, keep streams flowing at a healthy rate, and support full water quality and water supply pools in our reservoirs. Below average rainfalls in 46 of the 49 past months in some areas has slowly but surely created a major problem."

But renewed, generous rainfall isn't predicted for any time before this winter, and may not materialize even then.

In the meantime, water management has become a diplomatic art as well as an engineering challenge. Thus far, participants have been willing to share in the sacrifices necessary to balance upstream and downstream needs. "Our weekly conversations have been enormously helpful," Brown said. "At one time or another, everyone has

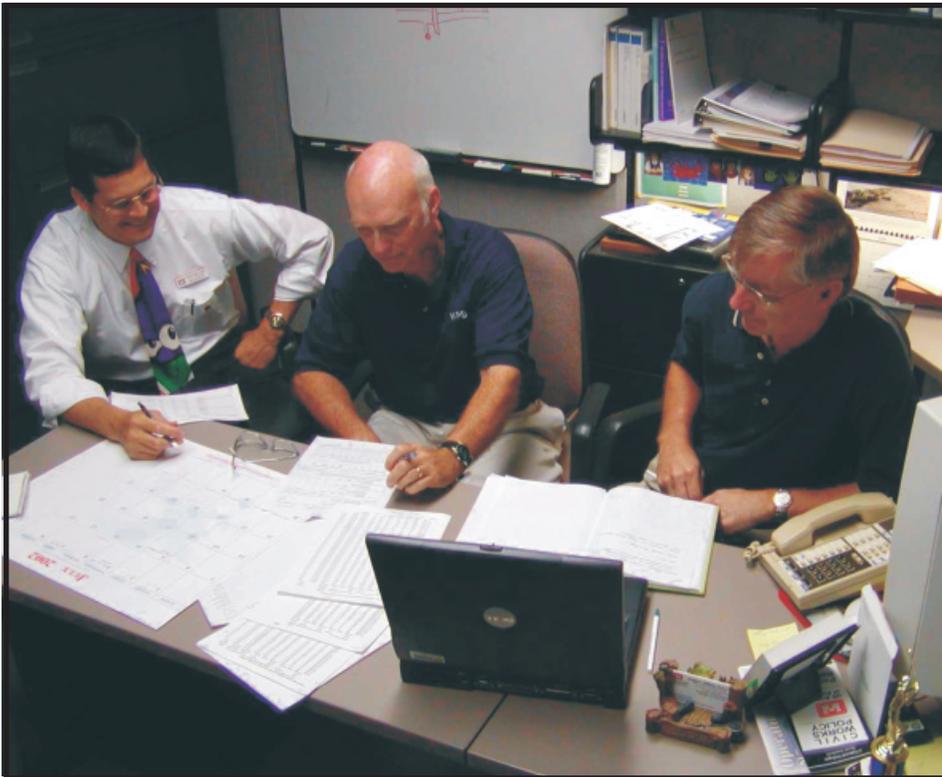
strive for or to avoid."

The Corps also takes full advantage of every bit of rain that does fall. "Occasionally, rainfall in the lower river basins may allow us to cut back on our releases," Brown explained. "Or a rainfall upstream grants us extra inches of water in our reservoirs, and we have done our best to hold onto that advantage. This spring, we held W. Kerr Scott Reservoir at a foot up into the flood control pool for several weeks, convinced that we'd need the water. We

officials are recalibrating their models—none of the information they have will give an accurate model reading for flows this low in the states' major rivers and streams. Agriculture in North Carolina was estimated to have suffered about \$170 million in damages by mid-July. More than 50 communities are under mandatory or voluntary water use restriction.

"When drought becomes news, it has already been around for a long time," Brown said. "Our intensive management began while people were still thinking that maybe this was just a bad summer for their favorite lake, or a 'dry spell.' Now newspapers, radio and television are carrying stories on the drought almost daily. That's great, because conservation and cooperation are the best tools we have to alleviate the severity of the problem."

Is the end in sight? Winter months usually bring some relief, but no one can predict a drought-breaking series of weather systems yet. "Predictions of a small el nino effect for this winter are still uncertain," Brown said. "The reality is, we are learning that even in our lush east coast states, drought happens, and water is no longer an unlimited resource. Urban areas demand enormous quantities of water, and North Carolina is now an urban state. The Chief of Engineers was right when he said recently that water, not oil, would become the 'coin of the realm' in this century."



(L to R) Greg Williams, Eric Farr and Terry Brown of the Wilmington District Hydrology Section hold weekly conference calls to update stakeholders on the drought's effect on water level in the Corps Reservoirs. Photo by Penny Schmitt

contributed. For example, participants have come forward with information that was critical for a management decision, letting us know exactly where lower reservoir levels or stream flows will cause impacts. Just today (July 30th) we put our heads together and identified a new area that can benefit from closer monitoring to ensure that flows are calibrated exactly as we intend. That knowledge isn't as powerful a management tool as a long, soaking rain would be, but good information does give us key targets to

were right! Last weekend, we received some much-needed rain that will give us up to a week more water than we expected, extending our Jordan Lake water quality pool into early October."

One thing is certain: this drought is pushing the envelope for all. As Curtis Weaver of the USGS charts river and stream flows, he is seeing new record lows over a wide area. A photo taken recently on one stream showed the gage sitting high and dry above a rocky creek bed with not a drop of water in sight. North Carolina state water quality



This sign was spotted in South Boston, VA near John H. Kerr Reservoir. The photo appeared in the "News & Record" along with one of many stories on the record-setting drought. Photo by Grace Camblos

Coast Guard Marine Safety & Security Teams establish a protective zone around the Cape Juby and Cape Johnson, two pre-position ships moored south of the Wilmington District Engineer Yard. Photo by Jay Fiemster, USCG



Securing Our Homeland

By Christine Bruske

It was Wednesday, July 24th--an ordinary summer day at the Wilmington Port with cargo ships navigating the channel, boaters enjoying the sun, and commercial fishermen unloading the day's catch. The quiet murmur of engines and dockworkers gently blended with the sounds of water and birds. Surely, nothing could spoil a day like this.

Rat-tat-tat-tat-tat! Rat-tat-tat-tat-tat! The calm was broken. Rat-tat-tat-tat-tat! People stopped what they were doing to listen more closely. Rat-tat-tat-tat-tat! Speedboats raced into the harbor with machine guns blazing. The harbor was under attack! Combat swimmers sprang up from the river's flow and converged on their targets--two "pre-position" ships moored just south of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Yard. The Cape Juby and the Cape Johnson are kept loaded with consumables and ready to deploy to resupply soldiers in battle, making them prime targets for a terrorist attack.

In minutes, the U.S. Coast Guard responded. The battle ensued. On the shoreline, television camera men pushed their way through frightened and angry crowds. Guardsmen were put to the test at every turn--fighting off the opposition, protecting innocent civilians, coordinating with local law enforcement, managing the onslaught of reporters, defending the target.

Thankfully, this was only a test.

Shortly after September 11th, when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, the U.S. Coast Guard created Maritime Safety & Security Teams (MSST), which identify and defend potential terrorist targets, known as "soft targets" because of their vulnerability. Roger Bullock, a dive coordinator for the Wilmington District Navigation Branch, and Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) in the Coast Guard Reserves, coordinated the test scenarios for the exercise, which was staged out of the Corps' Engineer Yard located on the Cape Fear River.

"Our goal was to make this experience as realistic as possible," said Bullock. "We wanted to test the teams' ability to deal with the terrorist strike, but we also wanted to test the teams' ability to deal with domestic situations that can complicate the military mission."

In most cases, acts of terrorism are well planned and often rehearsed. MSSTs look for pre-strike terrorist activity with the goal of turning a "soft target" into a "hard target"--that is, convincing terrorists that the potential target is too well protected for a successful terrorist attack.

The teams, which are named MSST 911-01 and MSST 911-02 in recognition of the tragic event that gave rise to their inception, underwent specialized training at the Coast Guard Special Missions Training Center at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. During the 72-hour test exercise, MSSTs were faced with boat assaults, combat

swimmers, landside gunfire, and kayaks moving slowly with the current to place mines on the ships' hulls.

"The Wilmington Harbor is a perfect test site," said Bullock. "The Cape Juby and the Cape Johnson are moored here and they stay here unless they're deployed. This is a strategic military port, close to Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune. It's a realistic target. The whole area is a realistic target."

In fact, several potential military targets can be found within a 100-mile radius of the Wilmington Port. Author and retired Army Colonel, Frederick Meyers, wrote a fictional novel entitled,

The Jericho Gambit, in which a group of Islamic fundamentalists carry out a series of terrorist attacks to include strikes on the Brunswick Power Plant and on the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point. Sunny Point is the Army's largest ammunition depot in the nation.

In reviewing the book, Ben Steelman, a columnist for the Wilmington Star News said, "Col. Meyers delivered a frighteningly plausible scenario for a homeland terror attack and played it out in a forceful manner. I hope no one in Baghdad reads *The Jericho Gambit*. I pray that someone at the Pentagon does."

Pre-planning for the MSST test exercise was extensive. Wilmington District Chief of Security and Law Enforcement, Billy Lee, and assistant, Maranda Hallman participated in several intelligence briefings. "We provided a lot of the intelligence on this exercise," said Lee. "We know a lot about Harbor operations, shipping schedules and geographic locations that can be strategic in military planning. We gained a lot of experience during Desert Storm. We also briefed them on dangers from alligators and snakes in the river."

See "Homeland" page 8



(L to R) LCDR Roger Bullock and LT(JG) Jason Goodman, acting as enemy forces, position themselves for a sneak attack during a test exercise for the Coast Guard Safety & Security Teams, which are specially trained to respond to terrorist attacks. Photo by Scott Maners



Wilmington District dredges and other vessels were in the harbor at the time of the mock attack and test exercise. Photo by Scott Maners

Lee and Hallman were on-site for the test exercise providing secured access to engineer yard facilities and Corps of Engineers vessels. The Corps survey vessel GILLETTE and the Dredge FRY were escorted to a safe place as part of the mock battle. This tested guardsmen's skill in managing commercial traffic on the waterway during a crisis situation.

In addition to coordinating details of the test event, Roger Bullock, along with the men in his unit at the Special Missions Training Center, served as the opposing enemy force throughout the exercise. "When we pose as the enemy in training exercises, our motto is 'Bad Guys Making Good Guys Better,'" said Bullock. "This was a good exercise and the team got valuable feedback from the white cell." The "white cell" is a group of subject matter experts that evaluate the effectiveness of each military unit being tested.

Bullock recently returned to work at the Wilmington District

after a 5-month deployment in response to the attack on the USS Cole and an 8-month recall in response to the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. He received the Coast Guard Commendation Medal for his work in Southwest Asia following the USS Cole bombing. Bullock has worked in the anti-terrorism arena since 1994 when he served with the U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 305 in Fort Eustis, Virginia. He currently serves as a trainer and planner at the Special Missions Training Center at Camp Lejeune.



(L to R) Maranda Hallman and Billy Lee of the Wilmington District Security Office briefed Coast Guard Teams on port operations, shipping schedules, and strategic geographic locations during the planning phase of the exercise. Photo by Christine Bruske

Operations Plan Update *working with our public*

The Quality Steering Group gave a 'thumbs up' to several completed operations plan objectives in August, adding 14 points to our annual total. The district's Training Management Strategy (objective 1.2) has now been implemented, for five points. The district has also established an advisory team for our Regional Management Board representatives to promote our capabilities in support of the Regional Business Center (objective 4.5)

The QSG approved two other objectives championed by the Public Affairs Office, for a total of six points.

"Many District Team members had a hand in the success of objective 3.1, which directed us to develop a comprehensive customer contact list and come up with a way to review and maintain it," said PAO Chief Penny Schmitt. "Information Management folks found us a program that could sort information several ways, letting us contact different customer groups effectively. Many others gathered and updated information about their important contacts."

Schmitt said the list will be updated semi-annually.

Objective 4.2 aimed to ensure that key team members are prepared for encounters with the media. The QSG agreed that a variety of in-house training initiatives by PAO, with the help of video camera-wielding expertise from IM, will effectively answer the need. Coaching and on-camera experience are now available for district Team members.

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE!

Are you ready?

Team members, pull out your CESAW District Circular 500-1-3 entitled “Hurricane Preparedness” and familiarize yourself with the important information it provides. Do NOT be caught unprepared as hurricane season peeks. Take the following test to check your Hurricane Prep know-how.

- 1) The CESAW District Circular 500-1-3 “Hurricane Preparedness” contains the following information:
 - a) lists of Primary and Reserve Shelters near all Wilmington District facilities.
 - b) check list for preparing your household Hurricane Survival Kit.
 - c) lists of Emergency Service telephone numbers for counties with Wilmington District facilities.
 - d) all of the above and more.
- 2) A hurricane is a storm of tropical origin with cyclonic wind circulation of:
 - a) 24 miles per hour
 - b) 54 miles per hour
 - c) 74 miles per hour or greater
 - d) all of the above
- 3) In the month of August, hurricanes have an average life span of:
 - a) 1 day
 - b) 3 days
 - c) 6 days
 - d) 12 days
- 4) Your household Hurricane Survival Kit should include enough water for:
 - a) 1 quart per person per day.
 - b) 1 gallon per person per day.
 - c) 1 gallon per family per day.
 - d) none, storing food is more important than storing water.
- 5) Use _____ to sterilize garbage and refuse in anticipation of reduced collection services.
 - a) lime
 - b) bleach
 - c) ammonia
 - d) boiling water
- 6) If a Hurricane Warning is issued for your geographic area, your refrigerator and freezer should be:
 - a) unplugged and emptied before food can spoil.
 - b) unplugged and pulled away from the wall.
 - c) turned to the coldest setting.
 - d) turned to the warmest setting to conserve energy.
- 7) If evacuation is advised, take _____ to the shelter with you:
 - a) your Hurricane Survival Kit
 - b) your pet
 - c) your firearm
 - d) none of the above
- 8) When evacuating your home:
 - a) leave your doors unlocked incase rescue workers need to get in.
 - b) leave several lights on so that you will know if your house has electrical power.
 - c) take short cuts to avoid traffic congestion along the recommended evacuation routes.
 - d) if public transportation is provided to the shelter, return transportation will also be provided.
- 9) After the “ALL CLEAR” is given and you return to your home:
 - a) take time to drive around the neighborhood and view the damages.
 - b) drink water from the faucet with no fear of contamination.
 - c) dispose of spoiled perishables by flushing them down the toilet.
 - d) none of the above.
- 10) When preparing your work place for severe storm events:
 - a) power off all equipment.
 - b) remove computers and other equipment from the floor.
 - c) individuals assigned government vehicle should ensure gas tanks are full.
 - d) all of the above.



Answers can be found in CESAW District Circular 500-1-3, “Hurricane Preparedness” on the following pages: 1) reference entire document; 2) page 1 paragraph 1; 3) page 1 paragraph 1; 4) page 4 paragraph 6e(2); 5) page 4 paragraph 6f; 6) page 7 paragraph 12a; 7) page 8 paragraph 13c-d; 8) page 8 paragraph 16a; 9) page 8 paragraphs 16a-c; 10) page C-3.



Some Wilmington District TEAM members joined LTG Flowers and his staff for a 3-mile run. (L to R) Hansan Pourtaheri (H&H), LTG Bob Flowers, MAJ Thatch Shepard, MAJ Joel Cornell, COL Ray Alexander, MAJ Randy Powell, Henry Wicker (RG), Ashley Shaver (H&H), Kevin Stein (TS-ED), Brian Albert (Exec Office), Christopher Kontalonis (TS-ED), LTC Michael Crall, and Paula Pier (Harbor Office).

LTG Flowers tackles second round

In a one-day visit to Wilmington District, LTG Bob Flowers, Chief of Engineers, reprised the Corps' achievements during his first two years as Chief and looked ahead to the Corps as a Learning Organization.

During the Chief's first year on the job, great progress has been made in improving strained relationships between the Corps and other organizations and agencies. "We are engaging our critics, and that's vital!" the Chief said. "It's important that we listen to what they have to tell us." Listening and openness have brought some rewards. The Chief noted that recent coverage of the Everglades Project by Mike Grunwald, the Washington Post reporter who has severely criticized the Corps, showed something new. "We opened up and listened to him, and let him see our processes. His new stories highlight the complexity of what we're trying to do, and give a broader picture of the issues."

The second round for the Corps under Flowers' command is a push to embed the Project Management Business Process in our culture and become a "learning organization" that makes good use of every experience and shares learning from mistakes and successes alike.

The learning process will be enhanced by an automated P2 system designed to support PMBP. The goal? The Chief foresees that we will use P2 to share project experiences, challenges and successes virtually among districts to become a fully functioning learning organization. "P2 has to be so good that you will want to use it. If it isn't, you won't do it."

The Chief also introduced the District team to the idea of a "USACE University." "This isn't a place. It's a concept we'll use to develop, train and sustain a world-class work force."

In his 'whistlestop' visit to the District, LTG Flowers started the morning with a run along the Cape Fear waterfront, and followed the Town Hall by having lunch with several District team members recognized as 'heroes' for their achievements at work and support to community and family.

In the afternoon, Flowers met with about fifty Wilmington District stakeholders and customers. His primary message? "Much of the debate about Corps reform is really a debate about environment versus development," he said. "We have to have that debate, and determine what this country really wants." Another issue coming to the fore, Flowers believes, is the urgent water resources needs of our nation. "Oil was coin of the realm in the last century," he said. "In this century, water resources will be just that important."

Corps, North Carolina to study Tar River

By Penny Schmitt

The State of North Carolina and The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement to examine a variety of potential flood reduction measures in the Tar River Basin, especially Princeville, which suffered record floods during Hurricane Floyd. "We are very pleased that the State Division of Water Resources has decided to commit funds to this important project in what we know is a tight budget year," said Col Charles R. Alexander, Commander of the Wilmington District. "We can soon begin some of the basic research on hydrology of the river basin and regional economics that are needed."

The state has committed \$60,000 for this budget year, which the Corps will be able to match with an equal amount from the \$1.5 million in federal funds already committed to the study. The three-year study project is cost-shared between the state and federal government on a 50-50 basis.

The investigation, formally named the "Town of Princeville, North Carolina, Feasibility Study" will undertake to determine the feasibility and economic viability of a number of possible measures to reduce flood damages along the Tar River, not just Princeville, but also for nearby Tarboro and upstream cities like Rocky Mount.

The options that will be studied include:

- Modification of the Princeville Levee
- A high-flow bypass channel or floodway to divert flood waters away from communities
- An upstream reservoir or reservoirs to control river flow and provide flood damage reduction as well as water supply and recreation benefits
- Modifications to bridge and railway structures or the river channel

The Corps must also evaluate a 'no action' option and the possibility of relocating communities vulnerable to flooding. "We are required to evaluate these options, though we know that Princeville and the nearby community of Speed have made firm decisions not to relocate," said the Corps' project manager, Al Bjorkquist. "We also will be giving full weight to the tremendous historical significance of Princeville as the first community in the nation founded by African Americans."

"We are pleased that the study gives us the breadth of scope we need to look at options that provide the fullest possible water resources benefits in the Tar-Pamlico Basin," Col Alexander said.

"Recent 'Revisit to Princeville' events sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation did a great job of highlighting the need for infrastructure development as a foundation for economic stability and prosperity in rural Northeastern North Carolina. A river system that supports and sustains healthy ecosystems and also brings benefits to people is truly at the heart of his or any region's economic viability. We're proud to be part of the great effort to vitalize this part of North Carolina."



(L to R) Congresswoman Eva Clayton presented Col Alexander with a Certificate of Appreciation for the District's work in rebuilding the Princeville dike after flooding from Hurricane Floyd.

New TEAM Members



Gregory Cardwell, Park Ranger, John H. Kerr. Greg comes to the District after working with the USACE Barren River Lake project. He has also worked for the US National Parks Service, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace national historical site. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Parks and Recreation Administration from Western Kentucky University.



Justin McCorcle, Law Clerk, Office of the Council. Justin holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Duke University, and he has a Juris Doctorate from UNC-Chapel Hill. Justin and his wife Sarah have a dog name Ani. They enjoy camping, hiking and cooking.



Holly Sullivan, Co-op, Accounting Branch, Regulatory Management Office. Holly is currently a junior at UNC-Wilmington majoring in Accounting. Originally from the Asheville, she enjoys hiking in the mountains and going to the beach.



Justin Elmore, Park Ranger, John H. Kerr. Justin joins the District after four years of service with the St. Louis District and a couple of months with the St. Paul District. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biological Science from Southern Illinois University. His hobbies are of weightlifting, hunting and fishing.



Tammy Lopez, Contract Specialist, Contract Section. Tammy joins the District after sixteen years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps. She holds an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Kennedy King College, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Park's College in Parkville, Missouri, and a Master's Degree in Management from American Graduate University in West Covina, CA. Tammy has a daughter named Alexis. She is a collector of foreign currency, stamps and Barbie dolls.



Jared Eatmon, Co-op, Park Ranger, W Kerr Scott. Jared comes to the District after a year and a half with the St. Louis District as a Park Ranger. He attended Southern Illinois University where he received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Geography from Appalachian State University. Jared is currently seeking his M.A. in Geography. He loves backpacking, bow hunting and golf.

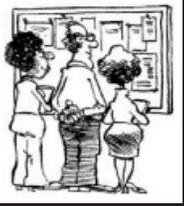
HR Corner

ARMY BENEFITS CENTER - CIVILIAN (ABC-C) AUTOMATED SYSTEMS

Are you aware that the ABC-C web site <https://www.abc.army.mil> is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Did you know you could navigate the system at your pace, print screens of information, print receipts of your transactions, and view your current benefits elections or even your projected ones? Have you been contemplating retirement or just curious about the benefits you carry? Within minutes, you can receive an annuity estimate or a personal benefits statement showing what you would be entitled to upon retirement and what benefits you are now carrying. EBIS is a secure site and, therefore, requires you to enter a password, SSN and PIN to access.

If you don't like computers, the toll free telephone

system, IVRS, is for you. Unlike EBIS, you only need your PIN and SSN to access. If you haven't established a PIN yet, your initial PIN is your four-digit month and year of birth. Just let your fingers do the walking and IVRS do the talking! Simply call 1-877-276-9287, select "2" for the Benefits and Entitlements Services System, listen carefully to the prompts, input your SSN and PIN and select any benefits module of your choice, i.e., FEHB, Retirement, TSP, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), Benefits News or Faxed Document. The unique feature of IVRS is that once you are in one of the modules, you can press "0" and the system can connect you to a trained counselor, if needed, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PMEST.



Corps Family News



Congratulations to Construction Engineer Rolando Serrano for his recent graduation from the 12-week Sustaining Base Leadership & Management Course (SBLM) at Ft. Belvoir, VA. The SBLM was the final course required for completion of the Leadership Development Program. Project Managers Jan Brodmerkel and Al Bjorkquist have also completed the Leadership Development Program.

Col Alexander is glowing with pride at the birth of his first grandchild. Samuel Marshall Karlen was born on June 19th, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. Mom, Jennifer, is doing fine.

Congratulations to Ranger Carmen Barnes Boyette (Jordan). She married Jon Boyette on June 22nd in Stallings, NC. Carmen's husband is a computer engineer for Atmel in Morrisville, NC.



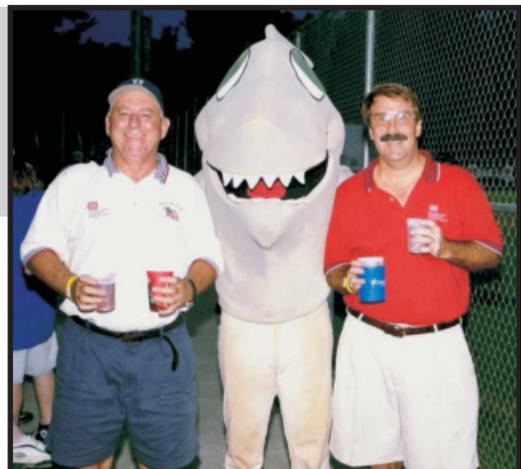
The Regulatory Division has some new leaders...Scott McLendon was selected for as Chief of the Asheville Field Office, and Jean Manuele was selected as Chief of the Raleigh Regulatory Office. Best wishes and good luck.



John H. Kerr Powerhouse Electrician, Terry Brooks, and his wife, Jeanie, were some of the top fundraisers at an event for the American Heart Association in South Hill, VA. Dressed as the "tree-hugging duet," the couple raised about \$800 to get release from a mock jail.

Congratulations to Patricia Prentiss on her selection as Executive Secretary to the Commander. You go girl!

Over 50 Wilmington District TEAM and family members came out in support of the Wilmington Sharks baseball team. Safety Officer Bill Harris threw out the first pitch. Chief of Engineering Wayne Bisette and RMO's Blair Boyd made a new friend.



Congratulations to Nathan Porter, 12-year-old son of Elizabeth Porter (RG). Nathan set a new swimming record for the 50-yard freestyle event at the Wilmington City Swim Championship. Nathan also achieved one of the highest point scores in the East Carolina Swim League.



Gloria Cliff, lovingly known as "Mom" to those in Construction, returned home safely after volunteering to work in Guam as part of the recovery effort following Typhoon Chata'an. Port Engineer Ron McBride also deployed to the Guam recovery effort and returned safely. Thank you Gloria and Ron for your service and sacrifice. (It looks like Gloria found time to have a little fun too.)



Retiree News

By Bob Swart

Since a small but elite group attended the Fourth-of-July luncheon, it was nice to have a crowd of 16 for the August Retiree gathering. Even though we had a good number, they were a rather closed-mouth bunch this time.

Joe Lewis appeared to be afraid to say very much anticipating that it might be repeated in this report. I guess I can't blame him for being concerned.

Betty and Eric Matzke attended Eric's 55th High School Reunion in Indiana, and Eric said all of his high school friends had aged unlike himself.

Kay and Buddy Johnson stayed home and complained over the holiday. We could wonder about which one of them was doing the complaining. I think I overheard something about that "old pain in the neck."

Betty's and my daughter, Missy, and the granddaughters visited on the 4th and stayed two weeks. We all had a great time.

Our group received a very nice letter from Richard Jackson. Richard and his wife, Debbie, are now living in Shelby, NC. Richard said he was located a point "equidistant" from members of his and her families. Daughter Susan is married with twins born in November. They are living in Charleston, SC. Trisha is married to a Scot and living in Darlington, UK with a baby girl born in May. Richard and Debbie were present for the births of each baby and are thrilled to be grandparents. Richard was with SAW for 17 years, with SAC for 10 years and with SWG for 4 years. Thanks, Richard, for the update and please stay in touch.

I made a hospital visit with John Woolwine, who recently fell from a ladder while working on the roof of his house. He did some major damage to his back. John first told me that he had hit on his head, but I wondered what he could have hurt, and then he clarified to me that he had hurt his back. Thankfully, he's on the mend.

Tammy Jarrett, Tom Jarrett's daughter-in-law and the nice lady who waits on us at the restaurant, said her mother has been very sick in the hospital and needs our prayers.

Fred Lehman, a crewman on the dredge FRY, faxed in a newspaper clipping on the August 11th death of Ira Gillikin. Lehman said Ira Gillikin retired as deckhand on the dredge FRY in June 1990. He worked in the Jacksonville District for many years. He went to Vietnam on the dredge HYDE in 1967-1968 and made an "around the world cruise" at that time. Ira Gillikin was known as a jovial, well-liked seaman. He was 67 years old.

Corps of Engineers retirees, current employees and spouses are invited to join the luncheon held the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM at the Pier 20 Restaurant on College Road in Wilmington. Cards and letters can be sent to Bob Swart, 127 Pilgrim Circle, Wilmington, NC 28401.

Col. (Ret) Bob Hughes

Job with Wilmington District: District Engineer. Retired in 1983 after serving 25 years in the U.S. Army.

After Retiring from the Army: Became head of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Oklahoma State University (OSU). Retired again in June 2001.

Biggest Success at OSU: The increase in female enrollment, and development of the "Concrete Canoe Program," which brought the school national prominence. The Concrete Canoe Program is contest for university students, which involves designing and building canoes of light-weight concrete to be raced against canoes built by other collegiate teams.

Activities in Retirement: Serves as arbitrator on construction contract disputes.

Interesting Places Visited Since Retirement: Took a two-week tour of Alaska followed by a shrimping trip to Edisto Beach, SC with wife, Glenna.

Last Book Read: "Red Rabbit" by Tom Clancy.

Favorite Movie: "A Bridge Too Far"--probably because of my service in the 101st Airborne Division.

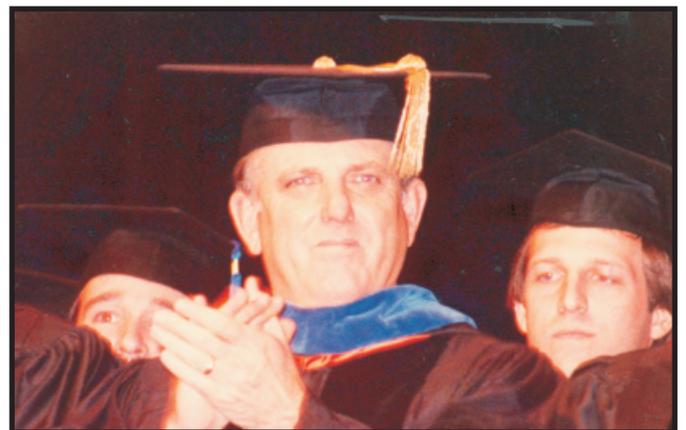
In My CD Player: A collection of oldies by three tenors.

Favorite City: New Orleans for dining, Las Vegas for excitement.

Favorite Things in Life: My family, especially my 9 grandchildren. My GMC conversion van holds a distant second place.

Regrets? No. My philosophy has always been to never look back and to never second-guess. I have never thought of what might have been. This has served me well over the years.

Current Residence: Stillwater, Oklahoma.

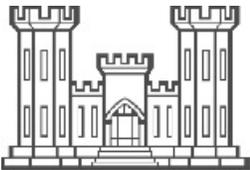


Retiree in the Spotlight



More than 30 agencies joined Corps of Engineers TEAM members to host a Water Sports Safety Day at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. The program included education and activities for adults and children. A highlight of the day was a show by the Carolina Ski Team. Photo by R.G. Absher

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



**Wilmington
District News**