

Wilmington

District News

Volume 26 • Number 6

June 2005

Bird Islands Revisited

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**Frontline
News**

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On the Cover:

Two laughing gulls scout their surroundings near a crowded nesting area at South Pelican Island. (Heusinkveld photo)

Up Front

Times Are A-Changing

By Col. Ray Alexander, District Engineer

Remember the old saying there are two things you can always count on in life, "death" and "taxes"? Well, based on all I've witnessed these past three years I propose that saying be amended to include "change".

Yes, "change", and there has been a great deal of it since I assumed command over three years ago. The Corps still had more money than it could expend every year so carryover from one Fiscal Year to another was commonplace. The focus was on execution rates, where 100% was good and if we weren't going to get there, we needed to offer up the funds to other district's that could. We had virtual independence in re-programming authority, which allowed to us to move funds from project to project when needed. We were not involved in supporting the Global War on Terror and the Gulf Region Division and Afghanistan Engineer District did not exist. The headquarters building was in the midst of renovation; there was no fence around our boundary, and our guards weren't here 24/7. Security concerns at operations project sites were minimal. Our floating plant was fully engaged with shallow draft navigation in the Carolina Inlets and other sites along the Atlantic Coast. I had two Labrador retrievers, a 15 and 12 year-old son at home, 17 year-old off to college, no grandchildren, and I was single. Also, I knew little about USACE and how we did business.

We also had a pure "District Culture". Little thought was given to accepting or offering work from and to other Districts and Divisions. Our boundaries, as defined by watersheds and political lines, helped shape the Wilmington District perspective on work and life.

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Wilmington District News



Engineer Day Message

Every June, we celebrate Engineer Day to honor the contributions of U.S. Army Engineers, which began when Col. Richard Gridley became the first chief engineer in June 1775. His fortifications at Bunker Hill began a long heritage of service by Army engineers that continues today. Although much has changed during the centuries, the commitment, courage, and competence exhibited by Army engineers have never changed.

During the past year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the entire Engineer Regiment have accomplished terrific work. Thanks to the Corps of Engineers team, we accomplished our daily, important work at home on the nation's waterways and recreation areas, on our military facilities, and in our research facilities. This past year, when our fellow citizens needed aid after four hurricanes struck the Southeast, you rushed to help them.

Around the world you supported the armed forces with quality facilities, and you helped to improve the quality of life in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"...the commitment, courage, and competence exhibited by Army engineers have never changed."

Thanks to your contributions, the Gulf Region Division passed its one-year anniversary in January. Later that month, Iraq held free elections. Many people will never forget the photos of smiling Iraqis leaving polling places, showing their fingers stained with purple ink like badges of honor. Be proud that wherever you served, you contributed to that important milestone.

Sadly, many in the Engineer Regiment have paid the ultimate price. In March, the nation awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to SFC Paul Smith of the 11th Engineer Battalion. His extraordinary, unyielding courage during a firefight outside the Baghdad Airport in April 2003 saved many of his fellow Soldiers' lives.

His award reminds me that the regiment is blessed with Soldiers and Civilians who live the Army values, and who are dedicated to public service. As a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you are part of a great team that has made many contributions to the nation's security, economic prosperity, and environmental quality. With your help, we will do more.

We published our campaign plan on June 16, and I ask that you read it at www.usace.army.mil, so you can help us become "One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive, and Reliable." The



*Carl A. Strock, Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding*

campaign plan describes goals, supporting objectives, and enabling capabilities that will help us achieve our vision. As you read the plan, remember that our goals and objectives are connected, and every Corps member has a role to play in making our vision a reality.

Thank you for your service to our nation, and thank you for being part of the Corps team. With your help, we will add to the long, proud heritage of service that began more than two centuries ago.

Essayons!

*CARL A. STROCK
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding*

Corps Dredge Islands Still Perfect Home for Nesting Sea Birds



Brown pelicans on South Pelican Island prefer grassy areas and thickets like this at their nesting area.

Story and photos by Hank Heusinkveld

Since the 1930s the Wilmington District has been creating islands in the Lower Cape Fear River from dredged material. They became a part of the landscape; uninhabited, elliptical uplands slowly became engulfed with vegetation. Around 1975, a UNCW ornithologist approached the District with interesting information. Sea birds were nesting on dredge islands about seven miles south of downtown Wilmington.

District biologist Trudy Wilder remembers the initial encounter well. "Dr. James Parnell contacted us to say, 'Hey, you've got birds using these islands. Is there something we can do to make them more conducive to bird nesting?'"

What began as a novel idea for managing dredged material as habitat has evolved into some of the best and only habitats for pelicans, royal terns, laughing gulls and other sea birds in southeastern North Carolina. Owned by the state and overseen by the North Carolina chapter of the National Audubon Society, South Pelican Island and Ferry Slip Island have become bird magnets during nesting season. The pelicans, for example, like grassy vegetation while terns prefer beach quality sand. Both islands were built using the Design By Nature approach which imitates a natural island's structure and appearance. Walker Golder, a biologist for the National Audubon Society of North Carolina, said with everyone



Laughing gulls take a breather after foraging flights.

working together, engineers with biologists and dredging contractors, they were able to create a perfect formula to use dredged sand beneficially to create excellent bird habitat. "The Corps has been fabulous about working with biologists to make sure that we put the sand on the island during the right time of the year, that they put it on in the right configuration and on the right places on the islands."

Golder said one big factor that steered the birds to the islands was that they were being forced off their historic nesting sites on beaches or on natural islands taken over by people. "These dredge material islands mimicked habitats that were once in great abundance along North Carolina coasts. These islands that are now in the Cape Fear River are filled with thousands of birds."



"If we can maintain the habitat, the islands will become absolutely essential to maintaining populations of sea birds in North Carolina."

— Walker Golder

Golder added that the islands need regular maintenance, optimally every seven years. "We were having to go to the island in late winter and remove vegetation by hand because it was overgrown. Luckily sand became available in that area of the Cape Fear River adjacent to the islands."

Wilmington District biologist Bill Adams has been observing the bird islands since the 1970s. He said the

Audubon Society and the NC Wildlife Commission and other agencies in a spot where we have sandy dredged material."

As the population of North Carolina continues to increase, especially in southeastern North Carolina, these islands are becoming even more critical. "If we can maintain the habitat, the islands will become absolutely essential to maintaining the populations of the sea birds in North Carolina," said Golder. "Right now about 20 percent of the brown pelicans and about 20 percent of the state's royal terns nest on Lower Cape Fear River islands."

Adams said if the bird populations dwindle on the bird islands, this area could lose a part of its identity. "The tourists love it. Who would come to the coast and not expect to see seagulls, terns and other birds flying over? It's just a part of the coastal environment. 85 percent of those birds are coming from our dredge islands. It's an important resource, a visual resource to the local economy and the state."

As the principle representative for the National Audubon Society in North Carolina, Golder has his hands full trying to keep tabs on birds for his organization. The Wilmington native



Walker Golder and Bill Adams consult each other at Ferry Slip Island.

keeps a watchful eye on the bird islands, hoping that they'll continue to be a refuge. "The birds play an important role in balancing the ecosystem that all species are connected by. And they add a tremendous amount of aesthetic beauty to the coast. And you don't have to go far to see that. You can see 'pelican' on hotel and motel signs, 'heron this, heron that', 'skimmer this, skimmer that', etc. People certainly recognize that. There are people who could care less, too. But if you took the pelican out of the ecosystem you'd have a less desirable coast because they're a component of the place we live, our place that we visit or take a vacation. They're a part of the coastal experience. Just like the fish, the crabs, the water, the beach. It's all related."

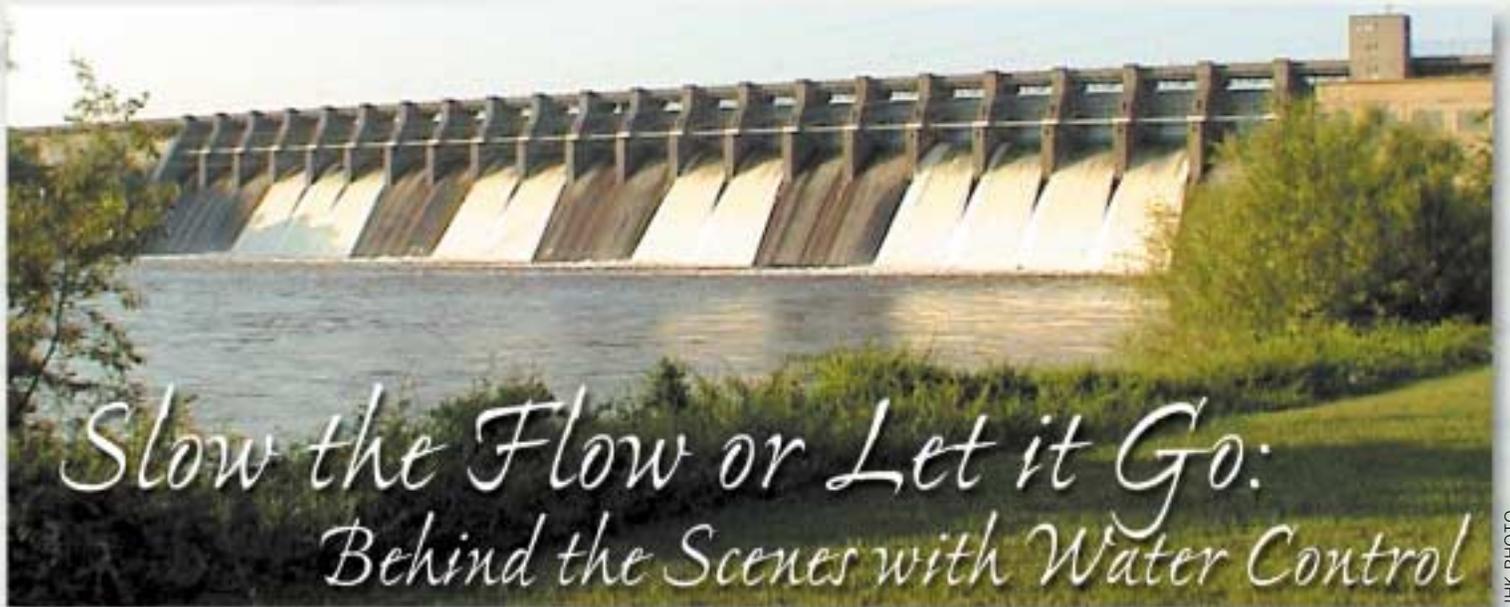
When flocks of sea birds return from foraging they appear as rivers in the sky.



A royal tern colony nests on South Pelican Island. Other bird species also nest nearby.

islands are doing now what he had envisioned them doing 20 or more years ago. "It's a typical management scheme. If you provide the correct habitat, the target species will respond. And that's what we're doing. We knew that there was a deficit of good nesting habitat for these birds so we tried to create it in conjunction with the





JHK PHOTO

This serene setting of John H. Kerr Dam is always a welcome sight for water control members of the SAW Coastal, Hydraulics and Hydrology section.

Story by Hank Heusinkveld

On Memorial Day and in the first week of June it rained nearly every day up and down areas of North Carolina and Virginia. Pools of water began forming where water couldn't percolate naturally into the ground. In the higher elevations, the rainfall made some creeks and small rivers flow fuller. The rain eventually subsided, but made hardly a dent in the water levels at the District's projects.

Coastal, Hydraulics and Hydrology Section's Dan Emerson kept a constant vigil on those water levels. As one of the key Water Management staff members who decides how much water to hold back and how much water to release from SAW reservoirs he knew that there was nothing to worry about. He uses a combination of technological tools, watching weather forecasts and plain common sense gained through years of experience.

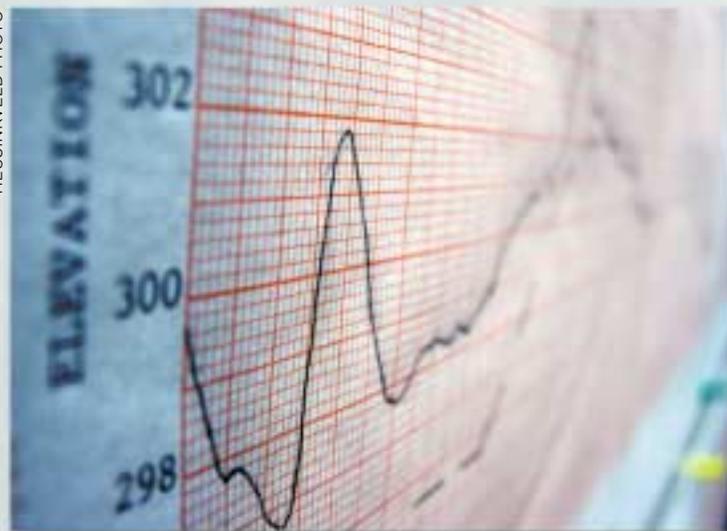
"In some spots we had close to an inch of rain," said Emerson, "but it had been so dry in May. The rain that we

got was being sucked up in the ground and into the vegetation in and around the basin. It had no impact, and the rivers didn't rise. So, I knew that would not impact our projects. That comes with several years of experience behind you."

Emerson says high tech tools like remote sensors placed strategically in rivers feed information via satellite and internet lines back to District headquarters. That information is put into a database, and water controllers use it to run river and reservoir forecast models. Output from the models produces tables and plots that Water Management folks can look at to get an idea of how much water is in rivers above and below the Districts dams and reservoirs. Decisions can then be made on what to release, what to hold back, and the impacts on folks both upstream and downstream.

"The guide curve or desired target level at each reservoir is one of the many factors that helps us determine how much water to release. We also look at and use many weather forecast tools, such as the Quantitative Precipitation Forecast," Emerson added. "This lets us look two days out to see how forecast rainfall might affect any decisions that we make in releasing water. We can also look at long-term forecasts that cover up to a 10-day period if we need to."

Deciding how to release water from any of the projects can be complex at times, especially during droughts where low water levels affect recreational activities, agriculture and everyday water use. During fish runs in the spring, for example, folks in Water Management work with stakeholders like the North Carolina Division of Wildlife Resources to ensure healthy fish populations. "We tell them how much water they will have to start off with and then we work day by day over about three months to determine how to make the best use of the water to release for fish spawning in the Lower Roanoke River."



During the first week of June this guide curve reflected a slight rise in the water levels at John H. Kerr reservoir.

HEUSINKVELD PHOTO

When calculating how much water to release, Emerson and his colleagues have to consider long-range factors. One interesting project to operate, he said, is Falls Dam. "Anything we do in the operation of Falls Dam has an impact on the lower Neuse River. Water released from Falls Dam takes about seven to 10 days to travel downstream to the Kinston area."

Terry Brown, Water Control Manager for the District, agreed. "During and after a flood, what we don't want to do is add more water from Falls Dam on any localized downstream flooding in the lower Neuse River. So if it's raining now or expected to rain anytime or anywhere over the Neuse River Basin over the next 10 days, we have to be very careful in what we do. It is a very delicate balancing act, balancing out the flood storage remaining behind the dam and but also making very careful releases so that flooding downstream is not made worse. We have to have a pretty good crystal ball to forecast what may happen up to 10 days out. Managing flood operations is definitely a 24/7 effort."

Emerson says there are days when nature cooperates and the reservoirs are at the guide curve and things tend to slow down in his section. However, when tropical storms and hurricanes make their annual appearance, Emerson and his colleagues are kept in a constant state of readiness. "The forecast rainfall, where and how much, from tropical weather systems is tough to predict, even with high-tech tools and nonstop monitoring of weather patterns. All we can do is to get our models set up and running and watch where the system is tracking. We get a lot of calls in asking why we don't make more room behind the dam by releasing water immediately before a storm hits. Well, there are a



Buck Kallam, a hydroelectric power plant operator at John H. Kerr Dam, can monitor water levels from the control at the project.

couple of reasons why. If we made releases necessary to make some extra room, that water might be in the areas where the storm may go. Then we'd be doing more harm than good by adding more water on top of the flooding already there. And if the hurricane never showed or the forecast track was wrong with the storm missing the basin, there would not be sufficient water to refill the reservoir."

There have been times when flood waters nearly reached the top of controlled flood storage. Both Falls and John H. Kerr Dams have come close to completely filling. Intensity builds as decisions have to be made and those decisions quickly coordinated with local, State, Federal and other stakeholders as the dam is almost filled. And the situation grows more critical if more rainfall is forecast.

Another water manager, Allen Piner, recalled more than one past flood event when Falls Dam was close to being full and the forecast track of rainfall was not certain. "One forecast model had the brunt of the rainfall falling above the dam. Another forecast model had the brunt of the rainfall occurring below the dam. So the main decision was, do we believe the first forecast and make some releases to accommodate the new flood waters that will further strain even more the remaining flood storage behind the dam. Or do we believe the second forecast of rainfall only downstream, and hold back releases to lessen impacts from the new flood waters downstream of the dam."

What could appear as a sometimes monotonous job is actually a sophisticated methodology with wide-ranging effects. Emerson says every day is challenging and every event is different in some way. "It's an interesting job. I really enjoy it because day to day you can be doing 10 different things. It's never boring!"



After water levels from remote sensors are downloaded into a database, Dan Emerson can see the water level patterns from each of the projects.

Senior Leaders Set Course for SAD Regionalization

Submitted by SAD Public Affairs

More than 100 members of South Atlantic Division's senior leadership team met in Myrtle Beach last month to review progress and set new objectives in the ongoing process of transition to a regional approach to doing business. Building on the major regionalization initiatives in the Fiscal Year 2005 Campaign Plan, the region's military and civilian leadership developed a road map for change to guide South Atlantic Division through FY 2008.

Among the major near-term objectives, for development and implementation in FY 2006, are regionalization plans and alternatives for the Real Estate, Regulatory, Construction, and Operations functions. Project Delivery Teams for each of these functions, with representation from all districts and the division office, will evaluate the functions and come up with recommendations for the Regional Governing Board. Regionalization may or may not include organizational realignments such as are currently being implemented in Engineering, Planning, and Contracting.

"We need to continue to take a close look at our organization to increase our efficiency and effectiveness," said BG Michael J. Walsh, Division Engineer. "We have good momentum now which we must build on in order to make more progress toward our goal of five interdependent districts working virtually in a learning environment."

Another FY 06 initiative will "provide regional consistency of technical responsibilities that align properly with functional communities." This team will take a look at where expertise resides in organizations throughout the region and determine if it is being used in the most effective and efficient manner and is located in the right place organizationally.

Internal and external communications were the focus of two objectives under Strategic Goal #3, "Revolutionize Relationships." Internally, a team will look at ways to use the



SAW IM's Lora Reid, second from left, helped provide support to the conference.



SAW IM PHOTO
SAD Commander BG Michael Walsh confers with two SAD employees at the conference.

functional communities of practice to more effectively communicate within the organization. For external customers, a team will develop "a disciplined approach to understanding and responding to customer needs." This team will look at current ways of communicating with and measuring customer satisfaction and develop an overall strategy to open consistent, regular communications with partners and stakeholders.

A final near-term initiative will seek ways to optimize the use of the Corps' new project management system, P2. This is a two-year initiative, extending through FY '07.

Other objectives identified for implementation in FY '07 and '08 include improvement of the region's acquisition strategy, enhancement of professional development and mentoring, establishment of a process for region-wide workload distribution, implementation of regional outreach, and fielding of objective organizations in Engineering, Planning, and Contracting functions.

Development of these goals and objectives came through a disciplined three-day process in which the region's senior leadership was directly involved in small-group discussions. The products of these discussions were well-defined objectives with fleshed out project management plans (PMP) to guide the Project Management Teams who will evaluate regional processes and organizations and recommend changes to the Regional Governing Board at their August 2005 meeting.

Background for the deliberations of the senior regional leaders was provided by members of the Leadership Development Program, who presented an analysis of the challenges facing our division. The South Atlantic Division's three biggest 'opportunity' challenges, they said, will be to successfully undertake missions repairing the environment, upgrading aging infrastructure, and responding proactively to threats of terrorism. As an organization, they argued, we also must balance our objectives and find ways to minimize institutional barriers to effective resources management.

The issues our emerging leaders see as our chief challenges are in the areas of Regulatory, Regionalization, Communication, Employee Development, and Process and Mission execution.

Work done by the whole group was naturally intended to stay within the focus set by HQ USACE in its recently tuned-up vision, which LTG Carl Strock has clearly indicated will continue along the trajectory set by his predecessor, LTG Robert Flowers.

“It is extremely important that we make key changes that give us more control of our organization and, ultimately, of our own destiny,” BG Walsh said. “A wide variety of external influences are currently shaping us, and we must accommo-



SAW District Engineer COL Ray Alexander gives his input for more efficient ways to make regionalization work well.

date those while at the same time charting our own course. The changes we are making right now will make us stronger as an organization and provide a better place for our employees to serve the nation.”

The same essential principles to take care of our people which were articulated in FY '05 will remain in effect as we move forward. There will be no loss of jobs, and no forced relocations for current staff. Although Districts no longer will be stand-alone entities, the relative percentages of District expertise will be maintained, and Project Management will remain the key business process. Geographic districts will retain primary responsibility to serve their customers.

Next steps include the identification of project delivery team members and the formation of the teams. The leaders and as many team members as possible will convene for a kick-off meeting and their first working session in Atlanta in early July. At this meeting they will gain an understanding of their mission and will finalize the Project Management Plan for their task. Division senior leaders will attend to assist in insuring a smooth beginning to the FY '06 process.

Three years later, we find the times at hand much different and the road ahead more complex and challenging. Civil Works budgets are lean. Re-programming authority is virtually non-existent. We've had over 25 team members serve in Iraq and Afghanistan and numerous others called up to serve as reservists and guardsman. Force protection became a hotter issue. Investments were made to secure our headquarters and critical infrastructure at our project sites. Keeping our floating plant “afloat” has become problematic due to reduced funding for inlet dredging. Congress wants us to shift focus from execution rates to getting projects completed with the funds specifically appropriated for them. There is a greater emphasis on developing a five-year comprehensive budget plan with an integrated project focus. Limitations on carryover of dollars and continuing contracts spanning fiscal years presents new challenges in our approach to planning and executing.

And then there is a change in culture and the way of doing business. Regionalization is well underway with the creation of new Civil Works Planning and Engineering Centers, Contracting Centers, and a new approach to business in terms of processes, metrics, communications, and the way we meet the needs of those that we serve.

Recently, the South Atlantic Region's senior leadership set the course for our regional future from 2005-2008. An article in this newsletter addresses some of the campaign plan initiatives and specific goals and objectives. The plan is aimed at optimizing organizational performance, further regionalizing our capable workforce, and maximizing relationship values. Regionalization is now reality and we all need to embrace it. It is what will allow us to face and meet the many challenges ahead. Regionalization facilitates our ability to respond across the full spectrum of USACE operations.

I urge all of you to read the new Strategic Directions pamphlet released by the Chief of Engineers and to familiarize yourself with the components of the South Atlantic Region's Campaign Plan (<http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/vision/vision.htm>). I urge your involvement in PDTs, in conveying your opinions and recommendations to your supervisory chain, and in spreading the word to our customers and stakeholders.

Times have indeed changed and they will continue to change. It is only through your personal involvement as an individual and as a team member, that we will truly achieve our vision:

- Five Interdependent districts supporting a viable region
- Providing expertise to the Armed Forces and the Nation

Back to change for a moment, did I mention the boys are now 20, 18, and 15; that I have two grandchildren; my labs are off running in puppy heaven; I married a wonderful woman; and while I know more about USACE than I did three years ago there is still so much to learn. Why? Change is upon us. So, board the train and get involved in shaping the future and addressing change. The consequences of resisting change could leave you standing alone at the station. All aboard!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

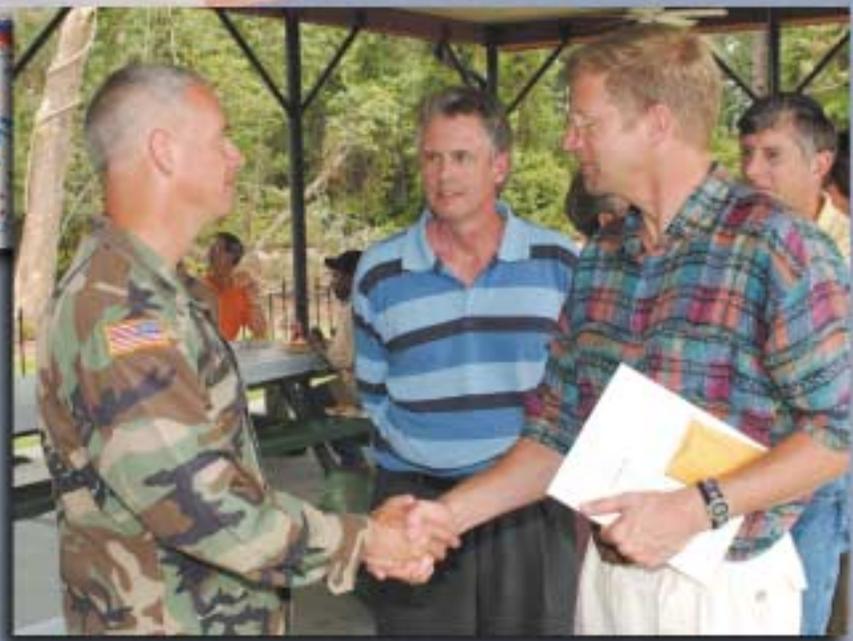
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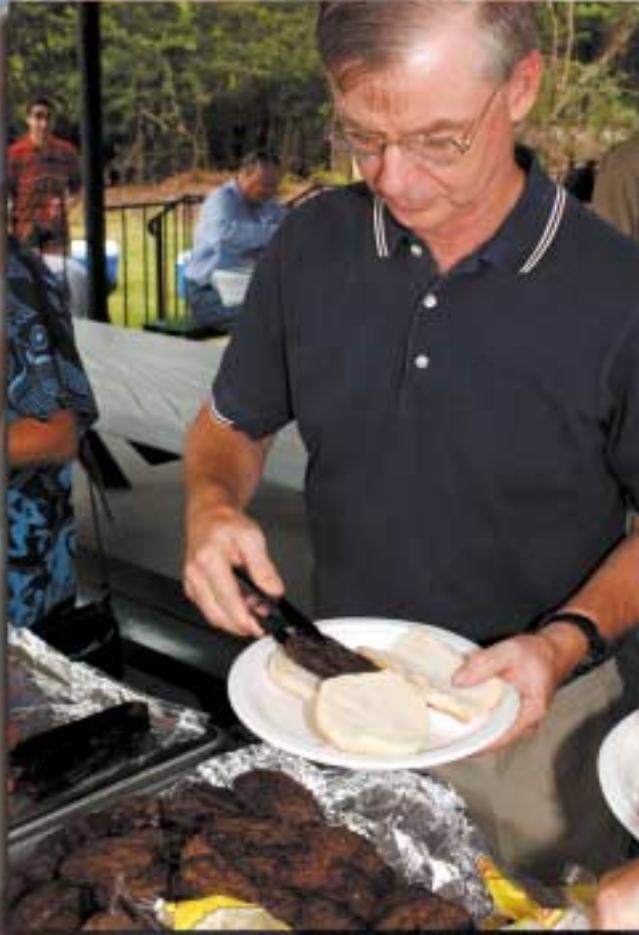
At the Town Hall Meeting COL Ray Alexander ceremoniously cuts pieces of cake for absent team members Deputy District Engineer LTC Bud Jones, Chris Frabotta and Nancy Wallace who are overseas in support of the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan. Chief of Staff George Burch looks on. Danny Kissam has since returned from Afghanistan.



Regulatory's Gwen Robinson shares a bite to eat with Mattie Jones, left, and Thelma Hemmingway, out of picture on right.



Jeff Richter receives a warm welcome to the cookout from COL Alexander as Allen Davis and Greg Griffith wait in line.



Terry Brown of Coastal, Hydraulics and Hydrology grabs a burger in the chow line.



Jeff Manning of Information Management cooks dozens of hamburgers in his own inferno.

PHOTOS BY KEITH ODBERG, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Congratulations to Bobby Willis, Diane Boswell, Beverly Hensley and Penny Chesnut for 35 years of federal service. They received their awards at the Town Hall Meeting.

Hot & Dusty, But Progress Continues

The following information was compiled from Wilmington District team members Deputy District Engineer Lieutenant Colonel Bud Jones who's currently the Area Commander and Area Engineer for the Tikrit Area Office, and Chris Frabotta, the Resident Engineer for the Basrah South Resident Office, Basrah Area Office.

LTC Jones Writes:

Other than working long hours, life isn't bad here. I'm holding down two jobs waiting for our new Area Engineer to arrive. The construction includes a wide variety of projects including roads, bridges, clinics, schools, fire stations, Iraqi Army barracks, electrical power plant and substations, rail stations, potable water supply, water treatment plants, police stations, and a Coalition Force headquarters building. Our area of operations, which is the northern third of the Sunni Triangle, includes Tikrit (Saddam Hussein's home town), Samarra (a 5000-year-old Mesopotamian City and once capitol of Mesopotamia that was never fully controlled by Saddam), Balad, and Bayji along the Tigris River and Tuz to the east in the Kurdish region. I am also one of four members on the Provincial Support Team (State Department, Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office, the Task Force, and USACE) for the Salah ad Din Government for all reconstruction for the Province, which is roughly like a State Government.

We eat very well - at least most of us. A few places are still pretty austere. We do have to worry about bad guys - I have been



Chris Frabotta stands before the Khor Az Zubair New Power Generator Project, which is approximately 40% complete.



LTC Bud Jones, right, poses with LTC Doug Victor, a 3rd Infantry Division engineer in Samarra, located two hours north of Baghdad where temperatures can rise to 130 degrees.

shot at and some of my guys have survived Vehicle Borne Incendiary Explosive Device attacks. We also get the occasional mortar or rocket round. Deaths or even injuries are pretty rare, though. I mostly work for first and third brigades of the 3rd Infantry Division who are attached to the 42nd Infantry Division of the New York National Guard. I also work sometimes with Civil Affairs folks from Fort Bragg.

Working with the Iraqis is very interesting. I represent the District at the Province level - equates to State or very large county politics. Everyone has an agenda except the average Iraqi who just wants the basics of Maslov's Hierarchy. Corruption is institutionalized and even part of the culture - I guess that means you can't really call it corruption. It even has unwritten rules on the percentages that must be paid as gratuities/bribes.

We are getting past sand storm season, dreary and nasty stuff that gets into everything. The only problem is that means the heat is coming - we have been enjoying an Arctic blast that has the temperatures at around 100, but 130s are on the way the next two months.

Our offices here are pretty good on Forward Operating Base Speicher. In fact, we have a

lot of folks who come try to live with us - private trailers with individual baths. FOB Speicher is in the division rear.

By the way, our program for the last year and coming six months is about \$350 mil, and we are just one Area Office. I think the District's was \$160 mil last year. Did I mention we are busy!

Chris Frabotta Writes:

I am the Resident Engineer for the Basrah South Resident Office, Basrah Area Office, GRS, USACE. My office is responsible for approximately 165 million dollars in ongoing construction contracts, some of which include:

- Khor Az Zubair New Power Generation Plant (250MW)
- Dredging at Khor Az Zubair Port
- Wreck Removal at Khor Az Zubair Port
- Renovation of 10 Local Police Stations
- Renovation of one Local Court House
- Renovation of four Railway Stations
- Construction of a Brigade Medical Clinic
- Construction of an Ammunition Supply Point

All projects above will be completed prior to the end of the calendar year.

Brown Bag Tips & Tricks for June



Shannon Rinehart

As a reminder:

We have implemented the use of password-protected screen savers to prevent unauthorized access on all computers during periods of temporary non-use. If the user leaves the computer unattended for a period longer than 10 minutes, you will need to enter your password to log back on. If you leave and you are still logged on, and an administrator or someone comes behind you and logs on, you will be logged off and any work that was open will be lost. Always remember to log off if you will be away for an extended period of time.

For further information on this, you can read [Army Regulation 25-2, Para. 4-5, C \(8\)](#).

On Thursday, January 6, 2005 Microsoft made available a beta release of its [Windows AntiSpyware](#) application. This application is based on technology that was acquired back in December 2004 when Microsoft bought [Giant Company Software](#), a provider of pop-up, spyware, and spam prevention applications. Like many of the other spyware prevention and removal applications already on the market, the primary goals of AntiSpyware are to reduce the number of spyware applications that find their way onto user systems thereby causing serious performance issues, threats to user privacy, and unauthorized system modifications. This threat is more of a problem now than most viruses.

Microsoft states;

“Windows AntiSpyware (Beta) is a security technology that helps protect Windows users from spyware and other potentially unwanted software. Known spyware on your PC can be detected and removed. This helps reduce negative effects caused by spyware including slow PC performance, annoying pop-up ads, unwanted changes to Internet settings, and unauthorized use of your private information. Continuous protection improves Internet browsing safety by guarding over 50 ways spyware can enter your PC.”

The program is designed to run on Windows 2000, Windows XP, and Windows Server 2003. Other Windows versions are not supported. At this point in time, AntiSpyware is a [free download](#).

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/>

Microsoft asks that you go through a validation process to insure you are running an authentic and fully-licensed copy of Windows. Right now, the validation process is optional and can be bypassed. Whether that remains true in the future for this and other downloads remains to be seen. There is also a [AntiSpyware FAQ](#) that addresses common user concerns.

Don't forget, the best way to keep your computers down to a minimum is to stay up-to-date in Windows, your Antivirus and your Spyware software.

Be flexible for changes. There are more to come.

For more information concerning viruses and threats you can go to:

<http://securityresponse.symantec.com/> Symantec's Website, makers of Norton Antivirus

<http://us.mcafee.com/virusInfo/> McAfee's Site for Virus info and Threats.

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/> This is Microsoft's Security Information Site.



Jan Wutkowski

Website Highlights

Algae: The Forgotten Treasure of Tidepools

<http://www.sonoma.edu/biology/algae/algae.html>

Hosted by the Department of Biology at Sonoma State University, this informal website explores the fascinating world of algae through a collection of different alga images. The website's three modest galleries feature seaweeds of the Green (Chlorophyta), Red (Rhodophyta), and Brown (Phaeophyta) varieties. Site visitors will find smallish images of such algal species as *Ulva taeniata*, *Nereocystis luetkeana* (aka Bullwhip Kelp), *Egregia menziesii* (aka Feathered Boa), and *Pikea robusta*. The images are accompanied by brief, and sometimes witty, annotations.

About.com: Why Women Shy Away from Careers in Science and Math

<http://psychology.about.com/od/psychologynews/a/news040705wom.htm>

This article from About.com provides a psychological perspective on Why Women Shy Away from Careers in Science and Math. The article begins, "Girls steer away from careers in math, science and engineering because they view science as a solitary rather than a social occupation." The article reports primarily on a talk that University of Michigan psychologist, Jacquelynne Eccles, gave at the Society for Research in Child Development conference on how parents and teachers influence children's academic and career choices.

Urban Wildlife Rescue: Humane Eviction

<http://www.urbanwildliferescue.org/humane/>

While the city is often characterized as the antithesis of wilderness, many urban areas are home to large populations of various wild animals. In an effort to learn more about the animals living in our midst, this site, from Urban Wildlife Rescue, briefly describes problems related to trapping and relocating wild animals. The site also offers Humane Eviction suggestions for squirrels, foxes, raccoons, beavers, and skunks.

EPA: RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) Online

<http://www.epa.gov/rcraonline/>

The RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) "online database is designed to enable users to locate documents, including publications and other outreach materials, that cover a wide range of RCRA issues and topics." Users have three search options: Topics, Full Text, or Advanced searches. For those having trouble finding needed materials, the website offers a two-page reference guide. The What's New link offers information on the latest system changes and lists of the most recent or updated materials.

NOAA Satellite and Information Service [jpeg, java]

<http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/>

"The Satellite Services Division of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) provides real time access to satellite data and products for the public and government." Users can locate Hazard Mapping System (HMS) Fire Analysis, real-time satellite fire monitoring, Web-based GIS fire analysis, and additional fire products. The OSEI (Operational Significant Event Imagery) link supplies archived and current images of flood events, severe weather, tropical cyclones, and other significant environmental events. Users can also find bulletins, advisories, text data, and images of precipitation, snow and ice, volcanic activity, winds, and tropical weather.

Statistical Abstract of the United States [pdf]

<http://www.census.gov/statab/www/>

The US Census Bureau creates hundreds of products and publications for the public, and one of their most popular publications is the often cited and browsed Statistical Abstract of the United States. The 2004-2005 edition was released recently. On the site, visitors can view important information organized into areas such as agriculture, population, elections, educations, transportation, and domestic trade. Visitors can also browse earlier editions of the Statistical Abstract, and also download information from versions dating all the way back to 1901. Also, the site offers interesting state ranking.

One For Fun!

American Experience: The Carter Family: Will the Circle Be Unbroken

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/carterfamily/>

The long-running PBS program American Experience has recently turned their attention to the Carter Family, and in the process they have created a portrait of one of American's most beloved musical families. Their story began in 1927 when A.P. Sara, Sara, and Maybelle Carter showed up at a recording studio in Tennessee to audition for a talent scout. Over the following two decades, the Carter Family would record numerous songs that drew upon their own musical upbringing in rural Appalachia. The "Special Features" section of the site includes a selection of Carter Family songs as performed by contemporary artists, and excerpts from an interview with Gillian Welch about the influential techniques of the Carter family.

Farewell, Friends...

The Wilmington District loses three coworkers and friends who leave North Carolina for new jobs. **Sherrie Gaylor** left for Heidelberg, Germany to work for US Army Contracting Command, Europe. She'll work in the headquarters office as a procurement analyst. **John Roberts** also heads to Heidelberg to work as a contract management specialist at Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army G4 Program Development Division Management. **Mattie Jones** leaves the Wilmington District for the Louisville District where she'll work as a contract specialist.



Corps Family News

Brooke Lamson received the E. Manning Seltzer Award which recognizes special contributions to the Legal Services Community of Practice during the 2005 Chief Counsel's Honorary Awards at the Worldwide USACE Legal Services Conference in Seattle. Brooke provided the Wilmington District outstanding support on key regulatory initiatives, including the development and implementation of an Ecosystem Enhancement Program to provide upfront mitigation for North Carolina DOT projects. She demonstrated remarkable legal and negotiating skills in meeting the diverse interests of the State, the Corps, and other federal agencies.



John and Shiloh Wiles of W. Kerr Scott had a little girl, Katherine Eleanor, on Friday, May 27. Mother and baby are home and doing well. Katherine weighed in at eight pounds, four ounces and was over 20 inches long.

Laura Brock, Internal Review student aid, was salutatorian of the 2005 graduating class at Laney High School. She received the Michael Jordan Scholarship, a BellSouth Corporation Scholarship, and the Robert Byrd Scholarship for high school students. Laura is the daughter of **Carolyn Brock** of Finance & Accounting.

Relay for Life in Iraq

Katie Brewer, daughter of **Frank Snipes**, sent him an interesting e-mail message recently highlighting the efforts of some Fort Bragg Soldiers who took part in their own Southwest Asia version of Relay for Life:

Linda Burney, Community Manager, in eastern North Carolina was contacted several weeks ago by Major Matt Bedwell, 169th Corps Support Battalion based outside of Baghdad. Linda was told by Matt that his Battalion wanted to host a Relay. Some of the men and women are from Fort Bragg and they had previously participated in Relay when stationed there in earlier years. Linda rallied all of her resources and not only encouraged the participants through her e-mail correspondence, but also had Relay t-shirts made and shipped to the troops. The Relay started at 0600 (that's 6 AM for those of you not used to military time) on Saturday morning, May 29th. They had 127 participants and more than a dozen volunteers. This number of participants was about 20% of the Battalion. The Relay was a 3.6 mile loop around the base. We were worried that the t-shirts would not arrive in time, but they did and we are told the Soldiers loved them. Thank you Linda for helping to make this Relay a success! The Relay raised over \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society. While fighting for our country, they (our Soldiers) took time out to Relay. WOW!!!



Retiree Report

Gus Moore has just recently returned home from a two week visit with his daughter Amy at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. He spent 3 days in Paris, North Sea Beach, Holland, as well as time in Belgium, and Luxemburg. The hottest day reached 56 degrees.

Paul and Gloria Woodbury missed last month's meeting while they were off scuba diving in the Bahamas. During that time, their Brooklyn son and daughter-in-law were having twins. They also were off to West Bend, Iowa (don't bother trying to find it on a map) for their grandson Chris's high school graduation. They arrived home in time for Gloria to have an operation on her spine, and she is having to be very careful but seem to be getting along pretty good. By the way, retirement is not for sissies.

As can be seen we had a nice crowd attending this month and large part of it was made up the Phillips family.

It was great to have them with us. It certainly was good to have Joe Lewis back with us one more time. He indicated that it was a good thing that it wasn't the 3rd of the month or he would have to be out collecting rent and loan payments. He has been entertaining a lot of friends and family there on the plantation lately. As a matter of fact, he was leaving the meeting to get ready for a Lewis family reunion during the weekend.

Our prayers and condolences go out to the Frazelle family at the loss of Charlie, former Engineering Division, Design Branch Chief .

