

WILMINGTON DISTRICT NEWS ONLINE

APRIL 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**President Bush
Proclaims Asian
Pacific American Month** 2

**SAD
Commander
Encourages
Regional
Strategies** 3

**Kids Take a
Tour of District
During Bring
Your Child to
Work Day** 4

**First Annual
Corps Day
Makes a Big
Splash** 5

**SAD Security
Managers Meet
to Standardize
Security Meas-
ures** 6

**Chief of Engi-
neers Marks
Earth Day With
Environmental
Goals** 8

**Pastor Bill
The Stones of
Light** 12

National Professional Secretaries Week and National Secretary's Day was created in 1952 through the work of Harry F. Klemfuss of Young and Rubicam. Klemfuss recognized the importance and value of the position to a company or business. His goal was to encourage more women to become secretaries. Using his skill and experience in public relations, Klemfuss, promoted the values and importance of the job of secretaries. In doing so, he also created the holiday in recognition of the importance of secretaries.

Today, the title is changing and evolving.

But, the recognition is equally important. There are two new terms in use today. They are "Administrative Professionals" and "Executive Admins". The two names sometimes mean different roles and responsibilities to different companies. Both are broader terms, that encompass more positions than the original "Secretary" role.

The name change recognizes and acknowledges that the role has changed significantly since 1952, and for the better at that. And in Harry Klemfuss' day, these positions were the realm of women. Today, you find some males in these positions.



South Atlantic Division Commander BG Joe Schroedel stopped by for lunch during SAW's observance of Administrative Professionals Day.

PRESIDENT BUSH PROCLAIMS MAY AS ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN MONTH

Americans who trace their ancestry to Asia and the Pacific Islands have contributed much to our Nation. During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we highlight their importance to our great Nation.

Asian/Pacific Americans have made our country better with their talents and hard work. Their values and commitment to family and community have helped shape and strengthen America. These citizens speak many languages, honor countless traditions, and practice different faiths, but they are bound by a shared commitment to freedom and liberty. The diversity among Asian/Pacific Americans adds to the cultural fabric of our society.

Asian/Pacific Americans have enriched our culture, excelling in

many fields, including education, business, science, technology, government, sports, and the arts. We especially honor those Asian/Pacific Americans who have answered the call to protect the cause of freedom by serving in our Armed Forces. These brave men and women set a powerful example for all Americans.

As we celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we are reminded of the richness of the Asian and Pacific cultures. Asian/Pacific Americans enhance the American experience and contribute to our country's legacy of diversity.

To honor the achievements and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, as amended, has designated the month of May

each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2008 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and their many contributions to our Nation and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second. ■

GEORGE W. BUSH

Wilmington District News Online is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 published each month by the Wilmington District Public Affairs Office to keep District employees informed of current District news, activities and achievements. Send submissions for **Wilmington District News Online** to henry.g.heusinkveld@saw02.usace.army.mil or penny.schmitt@saw02.usace.army.mil

District Commander: COL John E. Pulliam, Jr.

Chief, Public Affairs: Penelope Schmitt

Managing Editor: Hank Heusinkveld

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wilmington District



SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION COMMANDER ENCOURAGES REGIONAL STRATEGIES

When he spoke to members of North Carolina coastal communities in late April, BG Joe Schroedel, Commander of the Corps' South Atlantic Division, forecast regional cooperation and strategies in four water resources areas. Schroedel complimented state water resources representatives for their foresight and willingness to work with the Corps to maintain critical infrastructure in times when resources were under pressure. He encouraged all in the audience to support efforts to reach across state boundaries to work on issues of concern in all the South Atlantic Division states.

- Water supply:** "The drought we experienced in the Southeast and the 'water wars' that came along with it convinced me, and I think has convinced many of our governors, that a cooperative strategy on water supply is crucial." Schroedel says that he has talked to governors in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas, and all agree that cooperation and coordination are important. Getting to agreement on some contentious issues may take awhile, the General acknowledged.
- Waterways:** Our so-called 'low use' waterways, including the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the Gulf Waterway are still vital to the economies in their regions. But their economic contribution is not on the same basis as our yardstick for funding—ton miles of commercial barge



BG Joe Schroedel talks to members of North Carolina coastal communities.

traffic—requires. Schroedel applauded the efforts of economists and others who are bringing forward new data and formulating new proposals for continuing to properly maintain these transportation systems. "I believe that we ought to be looking at transportation more holistically," he said. "Not just waterways as a separate system, but waterways as part of the system that includes ports, rail, road, and water networks."

- Ports:** The rapidly approaching day when container ships will exceed the current Panama

standard is already on the horizon. Ports that will accommodate new, larger shipping must be planned and built. "We need a regional plan to make sure the Atlantic seaboard has the capacity that will be required."

- Sediment management:** Schroedel complimented the State of North Carolina on its coordinated effort to look at beaches, inlets and waterways as a single system. Storm damage reduction projects on Southeastern shorelines are an important element of these systems. ■

BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY GIVES KIDS INSIDE LOOK AT DISTRICT

Chance Thompson, Adrian Beasley and Maria Serrano work on a computer in the training room. Chance is the nephew of Rachel Thompson, Adrian is the son of Tiffany Lee, and Maria is the daughter of Rolando Serrano.



Bailey Williams, daughter of Greg Williams, Adrian Beasley and Christian Hellums, son of Mel Hellums find out what it's like to get fingerprinted in the Security Office.



Sabra Walton, daughter of Melissa Blackburn-Walton, Maria Serrano, Bailey Williams and her sister, Lindsey, cackle as Stephan Vithalani, left, entertains them. Joining in on the fun is John Edge.

FIRST ANNUAL FALLS LAKE FESTIVAL IS A BIG SPLASH!

By Dana Matics,
Falls Lake Park Ranger

On April 12th, the Falls Lake staff helped put on the first ever Falls Lake Festival. What started as an idea from a local citizen has grown into what will become an annual event for Falls Lake. Chuck Arkell, owner of Paddle Creek/Neuse River Outfitters came up with the idea of celebrating all that Falls Lake and the Neuse River have to offer our local community. Not a shy man, Chuck came to the Corps with the idea, and he and Corps staff immediately began bringing this idea to life. The festival setting was a meandering path from Paddle Creek's shop at the toe of Falls Dam, through the Tailrace Fishing Area, on to the top of Falls Dam, and down to the lake itself. With food and commercial vendors on Paddle Creek's property, we had plenty of room for local government, state agencies, and non-profit groups at the Tailrace and on the dam. Anyone who had anything to do with Falls Lake and the Neuse River was invited to come and set up a booth to promote their group and safe outdoor recreation.

Agencies who set up booths included the Corps, NC Division of Parks and Recreation, Blue Jay Point

County Park, the Friends of the Mountains to the Sea Trail, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the BW Wells Association, and the City of Raleigh Adventure Program. The Falls Community Fire Department even came with their fire truck and boat - talk about excitement for the kids!!

Perhaps the biggest draw, what really brought people out was the opportunity to try a kayak first hand, for free! By having a partner like Paddle Creek in this event, we were able to supply boats for kids and adults alike to try out on the lake. The paddling community around Falls Lake is relatively large, however it's not nearly as large as the powerboat community.

Having the kayaks at the festival gave us this wonderful opportunity to be able to promote boating along with fitness! Of course, safety was a paramount concern. Everyone was wearing their PFD's and the American Canoe Association had a 'rescue paddler' on the water as well, just in case.

The event ran for about two hours before the weather turned on us and we were rained out. However, in those two hours attendance was estimated at 100 people. Everyone involved was ecstatic with the turnout - especially for our first attempt! So, next April, if you happen to be up our way, stop on by and join us for the Second Annual Falls Lake Festival!! ■



Canoeists prepare to launch their boats during the Falls Lake Festival.

SAD SECURITY MANAGERS MEET TO STANDARDIZE SECURITY MEASURES

Complacency is a state of mind that exists only in retrospective: it has to be shattered before being ascertained.

Vladimir Nabokov

When it comes to being on guard in the Global War on Terror, complacency is a “bad word.” That, according to South Atlantic Division Security Managers who attended the Wilmington District-

lead SAD Security Conference.

“It’s easy for people to fall into complacency,” said Wilmington District Chief of Security Greg Barr. “A big part of our job is to keep the workforce informed and remind them that as government employees they simply can’t become complacent. That’s why we send security announcements out and change security measures oc-

asionally. We all just need to remember that we work for a civil works organization that belongs to the Army. It’s still a target.”

The security managers gathered onboard the USS North Carolina to discuss standardizing security measures across the division. Barr said topics included analyzing each District’s Mission Essential Vulnerable Areas or MEVA. (The Wilmington District’s MEVAs are its five projects, the Engineer Repair Yard and the headquarters building.) Each District is required to have a MEVA, a risk assessment, a threat analysis, a physical security plan and a terrorism plan.

“Throughout the division we look at everything to make sure that it’s standardized. We have certain requirements that we have to follow and it’s important for all of us to get on a single foothold.”

Barr said force protection is still at the top of the list. Under the United Facilities Criteria all Department of Defense facilities



Columbus County Sherriff’s Office Detective Susan Smith explains gang cultures at the South Atlantic Division Security Managers Conference. Inset: A gang member’s shoe police use to identify gang symbols. Note gang sign on toe of boot.

SECURITY CON'T

have to be fortified. They must be bomb proof, have bomb-resistant windows, blast resistant doors and stand off distance.

“The stand off distance is the actual physical distance between your building and the perimeter fence. We’re in very good shape here at the headquarters building because of the perimeter fence and ample security cameras.”

Barr said that security measures at Wilmington District projects are solid. Case in point? When unidentified, uniformed people visited Falls Dam three years ago park rangers immediately notified the Wilmington District. Security cameras were trained on the group, and local, state and federal authorities had been notified. The incident turned out to be a false alarm, but Barr said it was an excellent, real-life test to measure the District’s response time to such a situation. Barr added that the projects are not immune from local security-related concerns. Gang activity is present on Corps property, and USACE security managers partner with local and state law enforcement agencies. Susan Smith, a detective with the

Columbus County Sheriff’s Office, gave a presentation about gang identification ranging from how to identify gang members to what they wear and how they wear it.

“Our Rangers are more likely to run into gang activity than terrorist activity at our projects,” Barr said. “We’ve had meth labs, people growing marijuana....the gangs are heavily involved with mobile meth labs and selling drugs. They have fairly elaborate warning systems. If a ranger were to stumble upon a meth lab like that, it might go south in a hurry for them. We’re noticing gang graffiti at some of the lakes that indicates some of the gangs are there marking their turf. That’s a threat to our rangers and we take that very seriously.”

Overall, Barr said proactive measures by SAD security managers are keeping all USACE facilities safe from unforeseen events.



Greg Barr, right, sits with other security managers as they discuss ways to safeguard areas within the South Atlantic Division.

Still, the biggest hurdle is keeping Corps employees from falling into complacency. Even though the Wilmington District is a civil works organization it’s often perceived as not a potential target.

“We don’t look at it that way. The threats are very real for us. We potentially could be more vulnerable than an Army installation. A terrorist will look at an Army installation and know that there are defenses in place with quick reaction forces. The Wilmington District headquarters building is considered a soft target and my job as security manager is to make it a hard target with help from the Department of Homeland Security.” ■

CHIEF OF ENGINEERS MARKS EARTH DAY WITH SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

By LTG Robert Van Antwerp

On the 38th anniversary of Earth Day, (April 21) I want to share with you how the US Army Corps of Engineers is continuing to transform how it provides reimbursable environmental services to ensure we are providing our customers with the consistent, efficient and effective services and products they expect and deserve. This is especially appropriate and in keeping with this year's Earth Day theme: "Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future."

Our goal is to align ourselves to execute our environmental mission by taking advantage of the assets, workforce

capabilities and resources found within our Environmental Community of Practice to focus on national program initiatives while strengthening the Corps' environmental programs. We have coordinated this "transformation" message with all our environmental customers, including the Army Secretariat, to ensure we're meeting their expectations.

This initiative is part of our continuing USACE Environmental Transformation efforts with our next step focusing on the Environmental Quality (EQ) program and ultimately addressing the remainder of our reimbursable environmental programs.

The Environmental Quality program includes services formerly identified in the Army environmental pillars of compliance, conservation and pollution prevention. The EQ program includes products such as the National Environmental Policy Act documentation (including environmental assessments and environmental impact statements), the Environmental Performance Assessment System, and military conservation and compliance efforts, such as archaeological evaluations, historic building surveys, and pest management, among others. This program supports Army compliance and sustainability programs.

The Installation Management Command's Army Environmental Command (AEC) also is transforming Environmental Quality, from a compliance-based approach to a sustainability paradigm, with new supporting business practices such as strategic sourcing to leverage the buying power of the Army to maximize available funding. The Corps' efforts are designed so we are mutually supporting to our AEC partners.

To that end, the Corps and AEC have been synchronizing efforts and updating our partnering agreement to better reflect an enhanced working relationship and allow us to transform programs together. The agreement calls



Wilmington District members, co-ops and volunteers took part in the annual Lower Cape Fear celebration of Earth Day at Hugh McRae Park. The group highlighted SAW's Regulatory Division and ecosystem restoration. From left to right: Jessica Hooten, Jim Rabon, Jeff Richter, Chuck Wilson. Not pictured: Jenny Owens, Liz Fiocchi, Liz Hair, Emily Burton, Eliza Baldwin.

EARTH DAY CON'T

for conducting formal semi-annual meetings and establishing an Executive Liaison to maintain overall communications and coordination. This will enhance our support to installation cleanup and restoration, base closure, unexploded ordnance and range sustainment, research and development, pollution prevention, conservation and compliance activities. The updated agreement was signed by the commander of the Army Environmental Command and the acting chief of the USACE Environmental Community of Practice on Friday, April 18.

Furthermore, we're continuing the "transformation" of how we provide environmental program services. The USACE Environmental Program Transformation will:

- optimize regional environmental support capabilities and restructure Headquarters to achieve consistent, efficient and effective services for our reimbursable customers;
- develop standard business processes for customer costs and to enhance our suite of contracting tools;
- seek opportunities to better use liaisons and virtual teams when working internally and with our customers and partners; and,
- implement annual regional and national listening and exchange workshops with our

customers.

Because the Corps' environmental programs are diverse, we feel that to be more consistent, effective and efficient we need to look at managing these programs regionally. This approach will enhance the environmental services our Nation expects the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to bring in response to local disasters and in support of war fighters.

This "transformation" is the next rational step forward in achieving sustainability and consistency with our other recent environmental program transformation initiatives.

- In 2004, we created the Contract Acquisition Working Group with AEC and other customers as members;
- In 2006, we transformed the Formerly Used Defense Sites program;
- In 2006, we established a Military Munitions Support Services strategy; and,
- In 2007, we merged the Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste and Military Munitions Centers of Expertise into the new Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise.

This year, we're working with AEC to "transform" the Environmental Quality program by October with initial operating capability in early fiscal year 2009, and full operating capability



Chuck Wilson, right, chats with a researcher about the Corps' role in ecosystem restoration.

in early fiscal year 2010. In the future we will continue to transform our other reimbursable environmental programs, such as the Defense Environmental Restoration Program and Superfund programs.

You will be seeing more about these "transformation" initiatives in the coming months as we work them with our partners. It's appropriate to talk about transforming our environmental program on Earth Day and as we support the Army's Sustainability Strategy, which includes sustaining the mission, environment, and community. Likewise, we're looking to the future with our continuing transformation initiatives to make our environmental programs more consistent, efficient, effective and sustainable. ■

WILMINGTON DISTRICT SAYS FAREWELL TO THREE DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES & FRIENDS

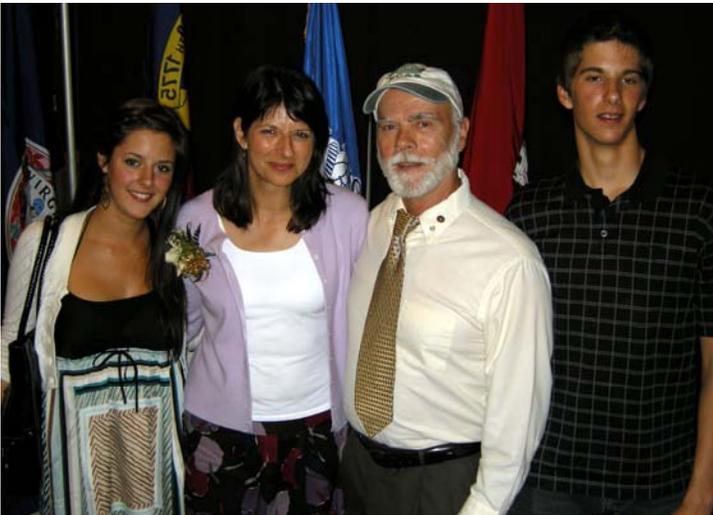


The Wilmington District wishes you well in your retirement, and thanks you for your years of dedicated service to the Nation, the state of North Carolina and Commonwealth of Virginia.

Art Hale



*Dan Livingston
(in red shirt)*



Richard Kimmel

Wilmington District
Corps Day
2008



Celebrating
Family & Tradition

*Becky
Fawn*

Happy Birthday U.S. Army (14
June) and U.S Army Corps of
Engineers (16 June)!!

Don't forget!! Corps Day happens
June 13th at Empire Park. Catering
will be by Sticky Fingers, and there
will be games and rides for the
kids.

Retirees!!! If you'd like to attend
call Patricia Prenciss at 251-4624
for tickets.

Society of American
Military Engineers
Annual
Scholarship Picnic

*Help support the Cape
Fear Post's Annual Schol-
arship Fundraiser Thurs-
day, May 15th at Hugh
McRae Park Shelter #5
starting at 5:30 PM. The
cost is \$10 for adults and
\$6 for kids.*

*For prize tickets and more
information contact Ed
Dunlop at 910-251-
4492.*

Pastor Bill

Stones of Light

Earlier this month, I was walking along the shore on North Topsail Beach at sunrise. It was a beautiful morning. The sun rose up round and red from a silver-blue sea as the waves gently came ashore. A lone willet took great pains to always keep ahead of me, never letting me get too close. As I strolled and took it all in, I kept a watchful eye on the beach in front of me, scanning for shells, mole crabs, coquina clams, tiger beetles, or any of the other things that make our beaches such fascinating places.



Bill Adams

Soon my attention was transfixed by a simple flat pebble. The pebble was an oblong disk made of quartz, one of the hardest types of stone. And as I went further along, I began to find these pebbles scattered all along the strand – clear, white, gray, and rose colored – all of them smooth, all of them flat. Such pebbles have always fascinated me. They are common on the beaches of Topsail Island and Kitty Hawk, but can also be found on many other un-nourished beaches along the east coast.

What a history these pebbles have. Formed in a molten and cooling earth eons ago, they were dislodged from some ancient hills or mountains and carried by water all the way to the sea. There they ended up on the shore, to be worn smooth and flat by ceaseless abrasion of sand and sea. And now they lay in my hands on a cool April morning. In the history of these stones, my life is but a blink in time; our meeting a chance event of no significance.

To those of you who find such stones, they hold within them a special surprise – the fire of their creation still lives inside them. If you take them into a really dark place, like inside a closet, and strike or rub them hard together, you will see a golden yellow light given off at the point of impact. This light is called triboluminescence. How the light is produced inside the stone is not well understood, but any kid will tell you that it's "way cool."

There was something magical about the moment. I was standing on the beach during a beautiful sunrise with the soothing sound of waves tumbling in the background. In my hands were hard polished stones that

were old beyond comprehension and each held within it the potential for producing a kind of light that science has not explained. In the midst of the ordinary, I was once again reminded of the awesomeness and mystery of God's creation.

How like these stones we are. At times our hearts can be hard and cold, but deep within them there is always a spirit of light. It is this spirit of light that calls us to love, sacrifice and give of ourselves for others. By yielding to it, we expose ourselves to the hurt and suffering that come with making ourselves vulnerable, but we are also blessed as our rough spots are worn away and we are polished for the kingdom. And it is at those times when life gives us the hardest knocks that God's spirit breaks forth and shows the world that we are not what we seem – we are people of the light! ■

P.S. I have given Hank Heusinkveld a couple of these stones for demonstration purposes since his office can be made really dark. Stop by and see the lights.