

**TAKING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC
DIVISION FROM GOOD TO GREAT**

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The guide LTG Van Antwerp has chosen for the Corps during his command is a study by Jim Collins called “Good to Great.” It’s the result of several years of intensive study about what makes some organizations move from ok to outstanding, and position themselves to stay ‘great’ for the long run.

More than 150 members of South Atlantic Division’s key leadership and a spectrum of District team members met in Atlanta in mid January to celebrate what already *is* great in our division, and to discern what we might do together to go, as BG Schroedel playfully put it, “from gooder to greater.”

Collins’ researchers discovered that the characteristics of an organization that was able to transform itself included several



SAD Regional Business Center Director Chris Hinton-Lee, at podium, Wilmington District Commander COL John Pulliam, center, and SAD Commander BG Joe Schroedel, right, lead a team-building sing-along at the conference.

features:

- ‘Level five’ leadership—a single leader who exhibited humility but also singularly strong will to put the organization’s success first over a long period of time.
- First who, then what—an organization that puts getting stellar people on

PRESIDENT BUSH KICKS OFF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

During National African American History Month, we honor the achievements and celebrate the rich heritage of African Americans.

Throughout our Nation's history, African Americans from all walks of life have offered their talents to the betterment of American society. Scholars such as Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois were early leaders who placed great importance on educating all people about the need for justice and racial equality. Athletes such as Jackie Robinson and Althea Gibson persevered while breaking the color barrier and competing at the highest levels of sports. Musicians like Nat King Cole and Billie Holiday lifted the American spirit with their creativity and musical gifts. Through their extraordinary accom-

plishments, these leaders helped bring our Nation closer to fulfilling its founding ideals.

This year's theme, "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism," honors an educator who taught his fellow citizens about the traditions and contributions of African Americans. His dedication to educating Americans about cultural diversity initiated this celebration of African-American history. Our Nation is now stronger and more hopeful because generations of leaders like him have worked to help America live up to its promise of equality and the great truth that all of God's children are created equal.

Throughout African American History Month, we celebrate the many contributions African Americans have made to our Nation, and we are reminded of their courage in their struggle to change the hearts

and minds of our citizens. While much progress has been made, we must continue to work together to achieve the promise and vision of our great Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2008 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of January, 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

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wilmington District



VOLUNTEERING FOR OVERSEAS DUTY IS REWARDING, CHALLENGING, ENRICHING

By Ron Eschmann
Headquarters

"You quickly realize that you are a part of something that is much, much larger than any individual effort you have done before..."

Curt Heckelman, DPPM, Gulf Region North District

Throughout U.S. history, Army Corps of Engineers civilians have had a proud tradition of stepping up to volunteer for worldwide deployment in support of military operations.

Continuing that tradition, many more have deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terror. This critical mission is not over, and both the Afghanistan Engineer District (AED) and the Gulf Region Division (GRD) are still seeking Corps civilians to fill a multitude of positions.

"At the present time there are over 300 vacancy announcements that are listed on both the Army Civilian Personnel Online and USAJobs websites," said Helen Lenahan, Chief, Headquarters Deployment Team. Many of these announcements are listed as "Open Continuous" because of the need to recruit talented, experienced people on an ongoing basis.

"Why volunteer?" said Lenahan. "Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq presents a unique opportunity for professional growth and personal enrichment. Many volunteer because they believe in the Corps rebuilding mission in these countries, or they may volunteer out of sense of patriotic duty, or wanting to help people build a better life and future."

Additional volunteer benefits and incentives for Federal employees may include temporary pro-

motion opportunities; post differential, danger and overtime pay; and separate maintenance allowance among others.

Lt.Col. Kari Otto, AED Deputy Commander said, "No matter why you volunteer, it's very rewarding to be part of such a worthy cause. The projects are fast-paced in Afghanistan, and it's not uncommon to

see a major construction project completed during a six or thirteen month deployment."

AED maintains its headquarters in Kabul, but there are Area and Resident Offices located throughout the country to support the mission. Deployments in Afghanistan offer a wide range of experiences for volunteers to choose from, "and there's something for everyone," according to Bruce Huffman, AED Public Affairs Officer. Corps employees based in Afghanistan might work out of Kandahar, Bagram, Gardez, Qalat.

GRD headquarters is located in Baghdad and has three District offices located Tikrit, Tallil, and at Baghdad International Airport. Each district office has multiple locations that are co-located with Coalition forces across Iraq.

While deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq, Corps employees will work with Coalition partners, the State Department, and the host country to build health care clinics, schools, roads, power distri-



Walla Wall District member Scott Gates manged the power at the Haditha Dam, the second largest hydroelectric dam in Iraq. (GRD Photo)

bution facilities, and other infrastructure projects.

Col. Gary Pease, Chief of Staff, Gulf Region Division, stated, "GRD is great personal and career experience. People assigned here have a level of responsibility and authority well beyond any job they have ever had before."

GRD employees work complex projects and interface with a wide variety of stakeholders, to include Iraqi contractors, Iraqi government officials, Coalition partners, U.S. Department of State and US Agency for International Development employees.

"Most importantly," said Pease, "is that they leave Iraq feeling they have made a vital contri-



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OVERSEAS DUTY CON'T

bution in the birth of a free and democratic nation, which is essential to the future security of the United States. Additionally, they will grow personally and professionally, and return with a real feeling of satisfaction that comes from participating in such an important mission," he added.

"Our work here in Afghanistan is touching people's lives in a positive way, and you can see that everywhere you look," Otto said. "We are doing far more than building structures; we are creating a better future and quality of life for a country that has been at war for over 30 years." The Corps is providing Afghans with things most people take for granted, such as roads, clean water and adequate health care, noted Otto. "You really gain an appreciation for the possessions and opportunities you have as an American when you see someone drink clean water or get health care

for the first time in their life," she said.

One question that is frequently asked is: What will my home away from home be like?

"Living conditions in GRD are excellent," said Pease. All employees get their own room which usually has a television, DVD player, and a bathroom. Also, food and transportation are free. Most GRD locations have gyms, libraries, movies, and other opportunities to rest and relax. Also, civilian employees are now authorized three home leaves during a one year tour. Leave transportation is paid by the government. Additionally, communications with family and friends is "very easy and convenient," added Pease.

Similarly, Huffman with AED, responded, "Accommodations in Afghanistan are quite nice, with modern dining facilities, and nicely equipped gyms, and living quarters, although some forward

operating locations can be a bit more rustic."

There are many opportunities for R&R leave and recreation while deployed, and most Corps employees in Afghanistan have phone and internet access in their individual rooms.

"This has been the most rewarding personal and professional experience I have ever had," said Curt Heckelman, Deputy for Programs and Project Management, Gulf Region North District. "You quickly realize that you are a part of something that is much, much larger than any individual effort you have done before now and for me, it has been a great honor. Heckelman said that every person works at a higher intensity and learns very quickly how to execute at a different level. "The pace is unrelenting, but it is also energizing. My most memorable experience is having the ability to teach, coach, and mentor individuals."

Currently, both AED and GRD are in need of area, resident, and project engineers. However, other mission support positions are also available for administrative support, budget analysts, contract specialists, program managers, public affairs specialists and many others. Applicants can self nominate through the Army Vacancy Announcement Board: <http://cpol.army.mil> or at USAJOBS.opm.gov.

USACE officials said that in the near future, AED (www.aed.usace.army.mil) and GRD (www.grd.usace.army.mil) will be producing videos that will be available online that highlight civilian employees living and work environments.



Bob Lipsky, Project Manager, and Kristie Acuff, construction representative, at the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. (Photo by Bob Huffman Afghanistan Engineering District.)

“PROMISING FUTURE” DEPENDS ON ADDRESSING WOUNDS OF THE PAST

Dr. Diane Emerson started her career as a teacher’s assistant in the Winter Park Elementary School 25 years ago. Since then, she has taught English at New Hanover High School, served as Principal at Lakeside High School, and after gaining advanced degrees from UNCW and NC State, moved on to work for improved education at the state level, where she has advised the legislature, and helped the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction improve its teacher and student programs, with a particular emphasis on raising achievement in low-performing schools.

Thanks to the efforts of Black Employment Program manager Gloria Price and her committee who organized the day’s events, Dr. Emerson’s address reached not only the gathered Wilmington District team, but the New Hanover County Commission, the School Board, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the New Hanover County School Board, all of whom had members attending the commemoration.

Dr. Emerson proved a fiery

speaker. After acknowledging our many reasons to celebrate the day, she confronted this Corps and Wilmington Community audience gathered at the Wilmington District’s annual Dr. in Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Breakfast with some brutal facts.

It’s more than 40 years since Dr.



Dr. Diane Emerson: “Wounded children grow into sick adults and hurt people HURT people!” (Photo by Scott Alken)

King spearheaded the movement that led to more equality in social and educational opportunity for all Americans. Yet African American children in North Carolina schools are still not achieving academically on a par with other students in their school systems.

“When 58 percent of African American students are performing below grade level in reading and math as compared with their white counterparts at only 18 percent—that’s a 40 percent gap.” In the past ten years, she said, the only change

in those statistics has been to see them become just a little worse.

The consequences harm not only the children themselves, but their families and communities. “Wounded children grow into sick adults,” Emerson said, “and hurt people HURT people!”

She didn’t just invite her audience

into the fray, she *commanded* the attention of all in the room, to point our efforts for the future directly at the main resource for changing our future: *children*.

Not taking ‘no’ for an answer, she reminded us that if our children were grown, if we

did not yet have children, if our children went to private schools, that did not excuse us from contributing to the betterment of all the children in our community.

Dr. Emerson’s message was, despite its stark content, a message of strong hope. “Advocate for the future—for our children! Teach them that they are *somebody*, that they have personal relevance, they have a rich history, a rich culture. When they know who they are, when they

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REMEMBERING BUFFALO SPRINGS AT J.H. KERR DAM AND RESERVOIR

By Craig Brown, Park Ranger

Last Fall, John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir and its community partner, the Clarksville Regional Museum, sponsored “Buffalo Springs Day” to honor and recognize the significance of one of Southern Virginia’s best known historical sites. As one internet blogger put it, it was “a big to-do in our area”. Nearly 150 members of the community attended the event, with many arriving early to chat and share memories of the Buffalo Springs Resort with others. On sev-

eral occasions, visitors expressed their appreciation for the recognition the Corps gave to the springs on this day, as well as the recent improvements to the historic site.

The program for the day included an entertaining history of the springs presented by Park Ranger Craig Brown, the unveiling of an highway historical marker by Natural Resource Specialist Michael Dodd, and masterful MCing by Michael Womack, the Operations Manager at John H. Kerr. In attendance were many local residents,

several amateur historians, members of the press, and even a few who had worked at the old resort (one of which was a 95 years-old lady who had worked at the hotel when she was a young girl!). The day was topped off with a “deluxe” tour by Wilmington District Archeologist, Richard Kimmel, who led the adventurous group into the woods and explained what has been learned from intensive mapping of the ruins of the hotel complex and the bottling works.

Prior to Buffalo Springs Day, Mr. Dodd worked closely with John Hemrick, Superintendent for RBS (John H. Kerr’s O & M contractor), to clear the underbrush from the historic site, put a new coat of paint on the woodwork, and do some renovation to the grounds. Mr. Brown and Dodd were instrumental in having two interpretive signs ready for the event. According to Mr. Womack, Buffalo Springs Day “was a terrific outreach program that brought the Corps, our Clarksville Regional Museum partners and the community together to cele-



Nearly 150 people gathered at Buffalo Springs to celebrate one of the most historic sites in Southern Virginia. (Photos by Craig Brown)

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BUFFALO SPRINGS CON'T

brate an important piece of the area's historical heritage.”

Buffalo Springs Resort and its spring water thrived during the time when mineral and hot springs were the place to go for health and recreation and just before advances in science and medicine doomed the patent medicine industry.

It is believed that the first European to visit Buffalo Springs was a survey party led by William Byrd II in 1728. In a book, Byrd poetically wrote that the water of Buffalo Springs was, “what Adam drank in Paradise ... by the help of which we perceived our appetites to mend, our slumbers to sweeten, and the stream of life to run cool and peaceably in our veins, and if ever we dreamt of women, they were kind.” He also sighted many signs of buffalo near the springs, hence the name Buffalo Springs.

In 1817, a tavern that catered to the locals was established at Buffalo Springs and was operated more-or-less continuously by a succession of owners into the 1830's. By 1839, Buffalo Springs had expanded into a small resort complete with a band providing summertime entertainment. By this time, the perceived medicinal benefits of the spring water (said to be good for the liver,

stomach, skin and “female complaints”) were known throughout the local region.

Through the Civil War and beyond, Buffalo Springs continued to attract locals looking for a healthy respite.

However, when Thomas F. Goode (1825-1905) acquired the property in 1874, his promotion of Buffalo Springs led to its national prominence.

It was the water that made Buffalo Springs famous. During the 1800's, it was believed that lithium (also called lithia) was effective in dissolving uric acid – high levels of which can lead to gout. At this time, uric acid was also being blamed for dyspepsia, rheumatism, eczema, sugar diabetes, Bright's disease, gallstones, fevers, and several other ailments. A chemical analysis of Buffalo Springs, commissioned by Goode, determined that Spring No. 2 was unusually high in lithia.



Wilmington District Archaeologist Richard Kimmel, upper right corner, chats with tourists near the Buffalo Springs site.

By 1885, advertisements for “Buffalo Lithia Water” were being placed in nationally circulated magazines such as Century Magazine, Cosmopolitan, Harper's Weekly, Scribner's, McClure's, Life and even the Journal of the American Medical Association. The advertisements featured glowing testimonials from prominent physicians including personal physicians of the Pope, and North Carolina's Lt. Governor.

It is said that, at its peak, there were nearly 20,000 outlets (mainly pharmacies and grocers) selling “Buffalo Lithia Water” in North America and Europe. ■

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BUFFALO SPRINGS CON'T

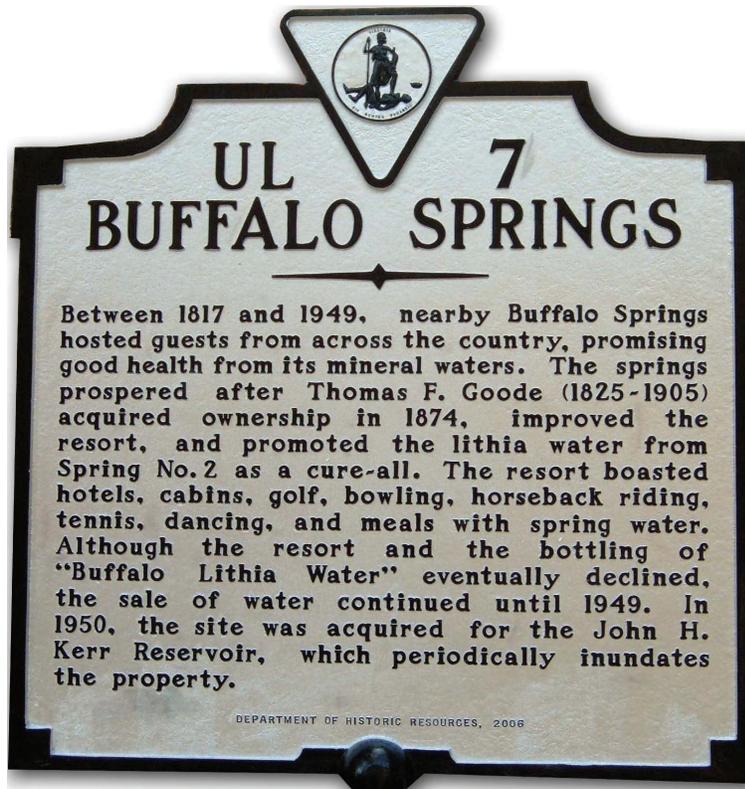
Times were good for the Buffalo Lithia Springs resort and its medicinal “lithia water” into the early 20th century. However, medical knowledge concerning the causes and treatments of disease and illness were rapidly changing, as was the patience of the American public with the extravagant claims made by some patent medicine companies.

In 1906, Congress passed the Pure Food and Drug Act and this put a stop to many of the outrageous claims made by unscrupulous drug companies. It also put a halt to most lithia water advertisements and sales

(Buffalo Springs was the best-known, but not the only spring selling lithia water). However, Buffalo Springs tried to circumvent the law by changing the name from “Buffalo Lithia Water” to “Buffalo Lithia Springs Water.” The logic being that they were simply using the legal name of the springs in their advertising.

The government was not amused, and in 1914 the US Supreme Court of the District of Columbia ruled that Buffalo Springs could not use the word “lithia” to advertise or sell their spring water. But it got worse.

The national reputation of the medicinal value of water from Buffalo Springs tumbled, though sales (on a much smaller scale) of Buffalo Mineral Water continued until 1949.



Even after “Buffalo Lithia Water” fell out of favor, the resort continued to be popular with locals. Up to the outbreak of World War II the weekend dances at Buffalo Springs were the place to be.

In 1949, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers purchased the land around Buffalo Springs for the John H. Kerr Reservoir. Most buildings and their contents were auctioned and hauled off. Today, vegetation has overtaken

The government produced tests that showed that the Potomac River actually had five times the concentration of lithium than did Buffalo Springs. In the court ruling, it was stated that, “... for a person to obtain any therapeutic dose of lithium by drinking Buffalo Lithia Spring Water he would have to drink from 150,000 to 225,00 gallons per day.”

most everything, except for a few buildings (on private property), some foundations, a renovated gazebo and the little tap from which the waters of Buffalo Springs flow. There are locals that still come to fill their bottles and jugs with the water that “Adam drank in Paradise.” ■

PROMISING FUTURE CON'T

know what they can do, then they will know where they can go” . . . to build a better future for us all.

“We must do more than honor Dr. King with mere words” she said. “We must commit ourselves to make life better for the next generation.”

Borrowing a motto from the Corps itself, she said it was a job assignment for us all to help young people fulfill the Corps goal to be

Relevant, Reliable, Ready, and Responsible. Maybe it was a coincidence—or maybe it was a special providence—but District team members returned to the office only to see a lively email exchange start up concerning efforts to support Engineer week / month activities at Myrtle Grove Middle School and other schools. Let’s hope it was Dr. Emerson’s message bearing fruit!

Lighting the day with the presence of some young people who are

clearly on the way to becoming the ‘somebodies’ who will shine in our future were Ms. Courtney Cox of Topsail High School, who sang “Wind Beneath My Wings”, Ms. Kiara Williams, a sophomore at New Hanover High School, who performed a moving dance to the song “Listen” and Mr. Bryan McNeill, son of Renita McNeill and a senior at Ashley High School, who provided musical accompaniment. ■

WILM. DISTRICT HOSTS SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS SESSION

On January 8, 2008, the Wilmington District hosted the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business session for companies interested in doing business with SAW. 60 companies responded with interest and 27 companies representing approximately 40 people attended the session.

Sherrel Bunn of the Wilmington Contracting Office welcomed the attendees and provided guidance on submitting bids in accordance with contracting requirements. Wilmington District Com-

mander COL John Pulliam welcomed the attendees and explained the mission of the District. The Contracting staff took information as the companies marketed themselves. The companies were provided information on the Wilmington District field locations that included the locations and points of contact for the District’s five lakes, the Engineer Repair Yard, Regulatory and Survey field offices so that they could market themselves for small purchases at field locations.

According to Bunn, USACE strongly supports the Small Business Programs. The Corps has a Fiscal Year 2008 SDVOSB target of two percent of all contract obligations. Based on FY07 contract obligated dollars of \$79-million, two percent would be \$1.5 million.

As acquisition planning is conducted for your requirements, Bunn asks to consider SDVOSBs. For more information about SDVOSB go to www.ccr.gov. ■

WILMINGTON DISTRICT ENGINEER PLAYED BIG ROLE IN NEW U.S. AFRICA COMMAND STANDUP

One year ago, President Bush directed the creation of U.S. Africa Command. The decision was the culmination of a 10-year thought process within the Department of Defense (DOD) acknowledging the emerging strategic importance of Africa, and recognizing that peace and stability on the continent impacts not only Africans, but the interests of the U.S. and international community as well. Yet, the department's regional command structure did not account for Africa in a comprehensive way, with three different U.S. military headquarters maintaining relationships with African countries. The creation of U.S. Africa Command, currently based in Stuttgart, Germany, will enable DOD to better

focus its resources to support and enhance existing U.S. initiatives that help African nations, the African Union, and the regional economic communities succeed. It also provides African nations and regional organizations an integrated DOD coordination point to help address security and related needs.

The Wilmington District's own Michael Annand played a role in getting the organization launched. Last August and September, he assisted AFRICOM's engineering section in developing its long-range facilities master plan and military construction program. In addition, he acted as the liaison between AFRICOM, USACE and the Europe District.

"I worked primarily on two programs; the temporary facilities for the current headquarters in Stuttgart, and the long-range master plan for facilities that AFRICOM would need in Africa to carry out its mission," he said. "It was interesting in that AFRICOM was using what is called a 'distributed headquarters' with one main location and four regional inte-

gration teams distributed across the African Union's five regions. The long range plan was further complicated by AFRICOM's desire for accompanied tours where service members' families would also be stationed in Africa. This required a comprehensive look at facility needs for housing, schools, recreation, etc."

Annand said they used the State Department's embassy program as a model and met with their facilities staff in Washington to learn about the challenges they face building embassies in Africa. "Those challenges included significant force protection issues, problems acquiring building sites, and the high cost of construction in a region with vast natural resources but few skilled workers and few modern construction materials."

Annand was handpicked for this assignment because of his specialized experience in military master planning and facilities programming including his experience as an installation master planner, his work on stationing actions in Eastern Europe, and his experience teaching the USACE master planning course for 10 years.

"It was a great experience working for a 'purple' organization composed of exceptional people from all the services. It was also very interesting watching first hand how a major new organization is formed and seeing how DoD, national and international interests interact." ■



GEN William E. Ward, commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), is briefed on a construction project by two U.S. Navy construction workers at a school in Holl Holl, Djibouti.

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board before it chooses its goals—and also finds a way to move staff members who don't fit the organization's needs off the rolls.

- A 'hedgehog' concept—a goal that fits with what the organization can do best, feels passionately committed to, and drives the economic engine.
- A culture of discipline—the ability to stick to the hedgehog concept over the long run and make the hard choices that keep the organization on track
- Technology as an accelerator—choose the technology that makes the most sense and use it in a disciplined way to move toward the goal.

LTG Van Antwerp emphasized in his remarks, recorded at the Corps-wide leadership conference last year: “the real aim is to be like Larry the Cable Guy: “Get ‘er done!” MG Ron Johnson, who joined the conference, cited a recent article that listed the ten top trends of the past 15 years that are likely to be around for the next 15. “You know what number one is? *Execu-*

tion! That is probably going to be number one forever.”

Conferees spent a day discussing the five key concepts in Good to Great,

- Sharing ideas about how to improve recruiting practices that would attract great people to work for the Corps.
- Trying to imagine what could be the 'hedgehog concept' for our vast and complex organization.
- Speculating about what might be done to foster the development of level five leadership among our long-term civilian leaders, and how the rapidly shifting cadre of military leadership could provide that level five focus as well.

Another important part of the conference, and one that participants enjoyed the most, was the celebration of five 'heroes' representing SAD's five districts. They were:

- **Peggy Garten**—Charleston District Chief of Programs. Peggy moved from her military service into a GS 3 job

as a mail clerk, and gladly followed the guidance of an encouraging mentor. Now she leads the Districts programs operation. Peggy encourages people to try things they don't think they can do, take advantage of training opportunities, and constantly seek to improve means of managing resources and presenting information.

- **Michelle Wolfe**—Deputy Chief of Counsel in Jacksonville District, is credited for turning around a contentious atmosphere with many labor disputes. She also willingly served for a year in Pittsburgh District as interim District Counsel. She also leads the districts LDP program. Michelle believes that people really want to get along, and that 'just talking face to face' can solve many problems. She encourages people to be willing to move around to expand their perspective.
- **Craig Littiken**—Chief of Regulatory in Mobile Dis-

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district might just exemplify the energy an organization can gain by getting a bright new person onto the bus. Craig recently moved from his career as a Ranger into the Regulatory arena, and has boldly taken on leadership as the District is establishing field offices around the district and grappling with huge, sensitive individual permit issues.

- **Gordon Simmons**—Design Chief in Savannah District, brings a career-long willingness to stretch himself in

overseas assignments and challenging projects to Savannah just as the South Atlantic Division is about to embark on a large, unusual project to support the Department of Energy in constructing a special nuclear weapons decommissioning facility.

- **Terry Ramsey**—Operations Manager at W. Kerr Scott Lake in our own Wilmington District, proved to be the ‘favorite’ hero to many. He led his team to win both the Operations Project of

the Year Award and the Natural Resources Management Professional of the Year award in 2006. Terry sees the project boundaries as the beginning, not the end, of his outreach area. Working with local community and regional partners, he has brought hundreds of thousands in grants and in-kind donations and volunteer hours to turn a dilapidated recreation area into a performance amphitheater that attracts people from around the region. He has made Scott a key participant in regional historic and recreation trails, and currently is working to establish a vital environmental education center.

All five of these ‘heroes’ exhibited the Good to Great spirit of *being* the level five leaders, attracting the right people, zeroing in on successful hedgehog concepts for their parts of the organization and pursuing those goals with passion and discipline. With folks like these, the Corps is certainly on the right path to greatness. ■



Mobile District Commander COL Byron Jorns leads his group in the team-building exercise.

W. KERR SCOTT RANGER EARNS KUDOS FROM NC “BIG SWEEP”

Staying in the forefront of environmental education initiatives throughout the county is a primary goal for Juanita Souther, Interpretive Ranger at W. Kerr Scott Lake. She provides invaluable education resources to the local community both in schools and at the Visitor Assistance Center. However, one of her largest undertakings is that of Wilkes County Coordinator for North Carolina Big Sweep (NC Big Sweep), an annual cleanup that focuses on keeping North Carolina’s waterways safe from point source and non-point source pollution.

“Juanita is a tireless worker for Big Sweep activities,” said Terry Ramsey, Operations Manager. “She started here as a volunteer and in just three short years expanded the program to include County Commissioners as well as county recycling officials.”

Ranger Souther operates under the idea that debris and waste that falls anywhere in the county will eventually enter the Yadkin River system. In support of her theory she enlisted support from local housing authorities and schools to



Interpretive Ranger Jaunita Souther poses with some young visitors at the Visitor Assistance Center at W. Kerr Scott.

include their areas in the annual cleanup with resounding success. This year, volunteers collected nearly three tons of debris from local waterways, housing complexes, and schools.

In recognition for her outstanding efforts and her continued enthusiasm for the program, Judith Bohlin, NC Big Sweep Director, presented Ranger Souther with an award and certificate for her outstanding community involvement. She received the additional honor of being asked to serve on the NC Big Sweep Board of Directors.

This is not the first time Ranger Souther received recognition for her work with the US Army Corps of Engineers. In 2004, she received the Award of Merit from the National Water Safety Council for her efforts as a volunteer to provide free bi-lingual swim lessons at W. Kerr Scott Lake.

Ranger Souther said, “I would not have received this award without the cooperation of the community at large. It’s the volunteers who come out year after year that leads to our continued success in this important cleanup effort.” ■

7 ENGINEER REPAIR YARD MEMBERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE WILMINGTON DISTRICT



Wilmington District Commander COL John Pulliam presented awards to seven members of the Engineer Repair Yard team for establishing a pattern of excellence and setting an example of achievement. They were cited for continually providing selfless service and outstanding work, and responding to routine and emergency repairs and maintenance. In addition, they worked long hours to achieve an unprecedented four shipyard periods for major overhauls and haul-outs for the SNELL, CURRITUCK, MERRITT AND FRY vessels.

Also attending with COL Pulliam were Acting Chief of Operations Roger Bullock, Chief of Lakes Neil Myers, and Operations Administration Officer Betty Brown and Survey Part Chief Marc Reavis. Attending from the Engineer Yard were Mike Shreckengost, John Dibiase, Jim Mann, Wayne Sprye, student aid James Head. ■



Ken Bailey



David Shearer



Sabrina Nixon



Ron Roberts

Commander's
Awards

Achievement
Medal Awards



Glenn Davis



Debbie Holt



Richard Cox

REACHING OUT & CORPS FAMILY NEWS

Greg Barr and his wife evaluated senior projects at Hogard High School and New Hanover High School. They also spoke with Myrtle Grove Middle School students in November about Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operations Desert Shield and Storm, their second such visit for that subject. Greg also volunteers as a Watch DOGS dad.

Said Greg: “The kids love to see adults/professionals in their classrooms and we have never been disappointed with the enthusiasm and courtesy shown by our schools and students. It is really a terrific way to provide community service and enjoy volunteer service.”



Boatsman Mate Joshua Bullard, son of Gaye Bullard, earned “Coastie of the Year” from his unit, Coast Guard Station New York.



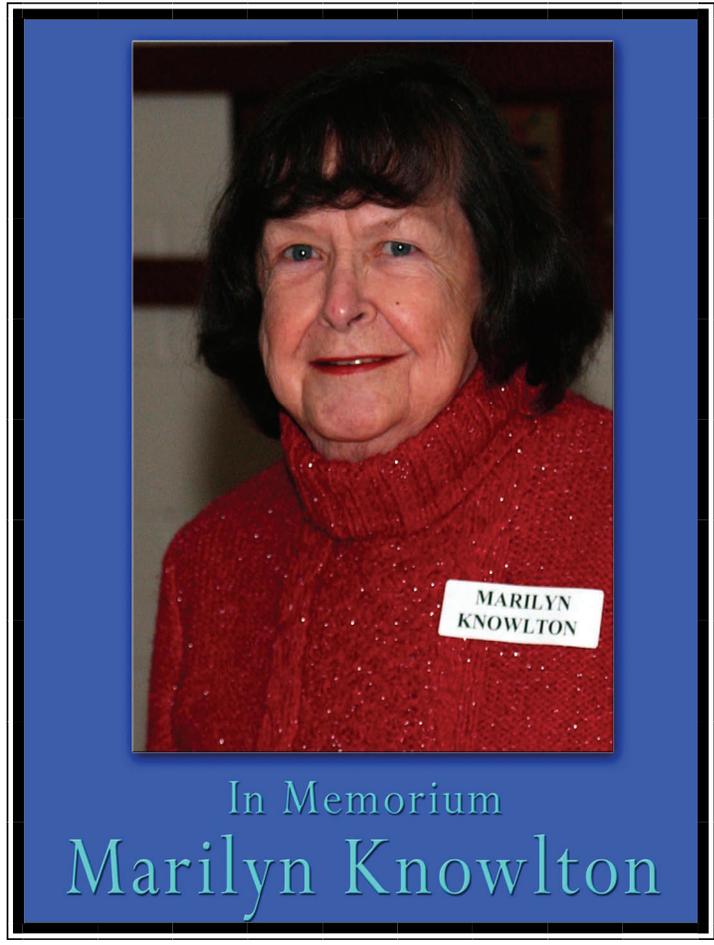
Gloria Price of Operations has a new granddaughter. Jasmine Simone Jackson, was born December 20th. She weighed in 7.5 lbs and was 18 inches long. Mother, Angela and father De'Andrae Jackson (former LM employee) are doing fine at their home in Reston, Vir-



Cold Mountain, North Carolina
Shining Rock Wilderness Area

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BEAUTIFUL NORTH CAROLINA

Scott Aiken of Navigation took advantage of North Carolina’s mountainous area near Ashville with a hiking buddy and his dog, “Jorge” in early January. Aiken and his buddy survived below-zero temperatures and plan to do other hikes.



In Memorium
Marilyn Knowlton

PASTOR BILL

CONSIDER THE ANT

GO TO THE ANT, YOU SLUGGARD; CONSIDER ITS WAYS AND BE WISE!

(KING SOLOMON - PROVERBS 6:6)



Bill Adams

I was driving on a chilly fall morning when I stopped at a traffic light. As I sat there, I noticed an ant crawling across my windshield - then another, and another. They were pyramid ants, the kind that makes little cone shaped mounds in my yard. As I began driving again, I saw them gripping the slick glass against the force of the wind. Amazing! The words of King Solomon came to mind.

Men have long considered the ways of the ant. Ants are everywhere in our area, from the piney woods and swamps to the beach. Over 9000 species have been described worldwide and their combined mass is huge. It has been said that the combined weight of all of the ants on earth is greater than that of all of the humans! They are also very strong for their size, able to carry about 10-20 times their body weight. If we were that strong, we could pick up our cars and put them into those pesky parallel parking spots.

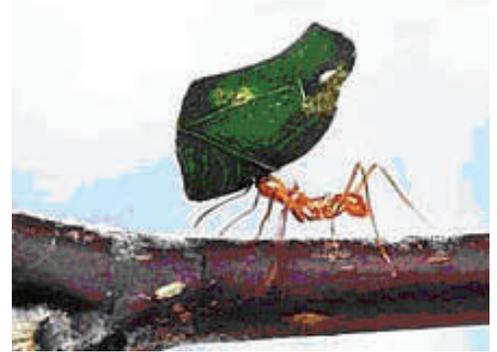
Most species of ants are beneficial because they are scavengers. When something dies, ants will find it and lay down a scent trail as they return to the nest. Other ants pick up these scent trails and follow them to the food. Whatever one ant finds becomes food for all. Hoarding by an individual is

unheard of in ant colony. Consider - why do we feel we need to own things?

At first glance, any colonies seem to be arranged somewhat like a human community - very organized with each worker having a job. But for the ant, life is a readily expendable thing. Unlike our society where we place high value on our individual life and freedoms, in ant society the individual counts for little - the colony is what matters. Any ant will yield its life without hesitation to defend the colony. Consider - is patriotism an instinct?

If you think your sex life is dull, consider the ants - most don't have one. Within an ant colony, the queen ant is the mother of all the workers, which are all females. The workers don't have young themselves, but instead are devoted to care for the queen and raising their siblings! Only when ant colonies become large enough do they produce males and new queens. These have wings and fly away to colonize new areas. Once a new site is established, the males die and the new queen produces nothing but female workers that are totally devoted to supporting her. Consider - which is more important to you, reproduction or devotion to another?

Ants are widely known for their persistence. There is a story about Timur the Conqueror who was forced to hide from his enemies. During the hours in hiding he saw an ant that was attempting to carry a grain of corn up a wall. Again and again it tried and failed. Sixty-nine times he saw the grain fall to the ground but on the seventieth



time the ant reached the top of the wall with its prize. "The sight," said Timur, "gave me courage at the moment, and I have never forgotten the lesson it conveyed." Consider - if a thing is worth doing, and we fail, why do we so often give up?

The bullet ant is so named because its sting is said to be as painful as being hit by a bullet. The philosopher Schopenhauer noted that when the bullet ant is cut in half, its two ends fight each other savagely, the head biting the tail while the tail stings the head. Now, whether this is true I do not know, but I do think that most of us fight ourselves. There is part of us that wants to take risks and a part that wants to play it safe. There is a part of us that wants success and recognition and a part that wants to sit alone in peace and quiet. There is a part of us that wants to serve others and another part that thinks we have enough to do. There is a part of us that believes in God, and a part of us that struggles with belief. Consider - what battles are you waging inside yourself?

King Solomon was right - we should consider the ant. There is much they can teach us about ourselves. ■