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COL JEFFERSON M. RYSCAVAGE ASSUMES COMMAND OF WILMINGTON DISTRICT



“This is a wonderful town and a wonderful workplace. I find the people here extremely professional, competent in all aspects of the District. It’s very well respected in the community, and very well regarded in the Corps family.”

Colonel Jefferson M. Ryscavage took command of the Wilmington District in a change of command ceremony 17 July at the Minnie Evans Arts Center. The new

Con't on page 3

Equality Day Lunch 'n Learn With Christine Brayman

Meet one of our senior leaders in the Wilmington District who really knows how to make her mark in the Corps. She has served in numerous positions throughout the US Army Corps of Engineers in many different districts and is currently serving as Deputy District Engineer for Programs & Project Management.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Senior Civilian for Wilmington District**
- **Master of Public Administration, BA in Economics & Political Science**
- **Active Wife & Mother**
- **Economist**



**DESSERTS WILL
BE PROVIDED
BY FEDERAL
WOMEN'S
PROGRAM**

**DON'T MISS OUT!
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26 AT
NOON**

Ask her about her career advancement. Get tips on what you can do to keep your career moving!

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 your submissions for the Wilmington District News Online to henry.g.heusinkveld@saw02.usace.army.mil or penny.schmitt@saw02.usace.army.mil

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

RYSCAVAGE CON'T



Soldiers Fort Bragg's 100th Engineer Battalion provide the presentation of colors during the change of command. Standing at attention from left to right: SAD Commander BG Joe Schroedel, COL John Pulliam, COL Jeff Ryscavage, and Chris Brayman, SAW Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management (Photos by Eric Hernandez)

Wilmington District Commander is no stranger to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was a project manager and later became the Deputy District Commander at the Philadelphia District, and he also commanded the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) based at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. His first impressions of the Wilmington District are positive.

“It’s very well respected in the community, and very well regarded in the Corps family, he said. “No matter which office I’ve walked into or which place

I’ve been to everybody is working well together. I’m very impressed with the overall workforce and the mission we have at hand. It seems to be a very mature organization in terms of how well it operates and how well-honed a lot of

the processes seem to be in relationships to the organizational structure. These are situations commanders love to walk into.”

Currently, COL Ryscavage is meeting with people throughout the Wilmington District. He’s assessing where the District stands and where he can add value.

“That won’t come just from me. That will come from everybody in the Wilmington District. Ultimately, we want to continue to accomplish our missions that we were given, and that we serve the

citizens of North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Nation at large with what we’re asked to do, whether it’s inside or outside the boundaries of the District.”

A veteran of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, COL Ryscavage encourages Wilmington District members to consider or reconsider a deployment to either country.

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COL Jeff Ryscavage poses with wife, Alison, a U.S. Army Reserve colonel assigned to Central Command (CENTCOM). Next to him is son Jefferson, 11, and on the left is Alexander, 7.

RYSCAVAGE CON'T

“It’s a very important mission for the Corps and I really think it’s job one given the Global War on Terror. The Corps of Engineers is very focused on supporting that. I’m very impressed coming on board that for an organization this size we have eight people currently deployed. I’ve already met three who are deploying very soon. Certainly the District’s support to USACE efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan are excellent. I would certainly encourage people to volunteer because it is job number one. As long as the Chief puts a priority on it, it will remain a top priority.”

Colonel Ryscavage was commissioned from the United States Military Academy at West Point as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1985. His initial assignment was with the 92nd Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Heavy) as a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer and Assistant Battalion S-4 at Fort Stewart, Georgia. His fol-



Outgoing District Commander COL John Pulliam passes the USACE flag to South Atlantic Division Commander Brigadier General Joe Schroedel as COL Jeff Ryscavage and Chris Brayman look on.

low-up assignment was with the 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as the Battalion’s Maintenance Officer, the Battalion S-1 Officer and Company Commander. Following company command, Colonel Ryscavage served as an Assignment Officer at Engineer Branch, US Army Total Personnel Command, Alexandria, Virginia. His next assignment was as a Project Offi-

cer and the Deputy District Engineer for the Philadelphia District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Following the US Army Command and General Staff College, Colonel Ryscavage served as the Engineer Operations Officer, I Corps, the XO of the 14th Engineer Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled) and the S-3 Officer of the 555th Combat Engineer Group, Fort Lewis, Washington.

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RYSCAVAGE CON'T

COL Ryscavage served on the Army Staff as a Plans Officer to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans of the Army Transformation Office. He served as Commander, 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) and as the Prime Power School Commandant from July 2003 to July 2005. From July 2005 thru July 2007 he served as the Assignment Officer and Career Manager for Engineer, Military Police and Chemical Colonels in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army at the Pentagon. COL Ryscavage's most recent assignment was as a student in the In-

dustrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair, Washington, DC.

COL Ryscavage's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He has been awarded the Ranger Tab, the Airborne and Air Assault Badge.

COL Ryscavage holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the United States Military Academy, a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from the Georgia Institute of

Technology and a Master of Science in National Strategic Studies from the National Defense University. He attended the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses as well as

the US Army Com-



During his retirement ceremony, COL John Pulliam received the distinguished de Fleury Medal for providing significant contributions to Army Engineering. The medal is named in honor of Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury, a French engineer who in 1777 volunteered to serve with the American Army in its fight for independence from Britain.

mand and General Staff College. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

Colonel Ryscavage is originally from Oakland, Maryland and is married to the former Alison Iglesias. They have two sons, Jefferson, 11, and Alexander, 7. ■



BG Schroedel gives coins to Pulliam twins Katie (left) and Alex. Jacque Pulliam (in white blouse) was also give recognition for her years as a dedicated military spouse.

THIRD ENGINEER OFFICER FILLS PROJECT MANAGEMENT POSITION

The Wilmington District has again managed to fill its rarely used third military slot. Captain Andy Baker is an alumnus of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He received his undergraduate degree in environmental engineering, and recently graduated from the University of Virginia with a masters degree in civil engineering. He's the second Army engineer officer to work as a project manager. Major Rob Hilliard left the Wilmington District earlier this year to attend the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Baker will be working in the Design Section. He's currently working on the MOTSU (Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point) Project.

Baker, like many Army engineer officers, has seen more than one tour to Iraq. He was assigned in Mosul as the Assistant

Operations Officer to 326 Engineer Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division. There he and his Soldiers helped manage all of the U.S.-sponsored infrastructure projects in the northern third of Iraq. He deployed a second time to Iraq as Company Commander with the 3rd Special Troops Battalion, also with the 101st.

"My unit did a lot of earth moving with bulldozers and other heavy equipment. We did a lot of infrastructure improvement, but mostly with respect to force protection on US installations. We also did a little bit of engineering work for Iraqi units. Finally, we helped train an Iraqi company in regular company operations, and taught them how to plan and conduct training on their own.

Baker said he hopes to bring his field knowledge of commanding troops into his



Captain Andy Baker

new position as project manager.

"I'm bringing mostly management skills to the table. I've got my professional engineering license (PE), and I'm hoping to exercise some of the technical knowledge I learned at graduate school. As an Army officer you're typically more of a manager than a technician which makes this a unique assignment for me. The training I get with the Corps will also give me a different perspective on management which will be useful when I go back to the regular Army."

An all-around athlete who stands at six-foot, five inches, Baker is enjoying the beaches and recreational opportunities that are available in Wilmington. An "Army brat" who's lived in several different places, he finds Wilmington comfortable. His hobbies include running, swimming and triathlons. ■



Captain Andy Baker stands at attention with his Soldiers as commander of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Third Special Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Division in Tikrit, Iraq.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT CONTINUES WORK AT FORMER CAMP BUTNER

The clean up of the World War Two training area at the former Camp Butner is progressing. This Formerly Used Defense Site project (FUDS) north of Raleigh was home to thousands of Soldiers during the war. Development over the years has unearthed unexploded ordnance and other debris in former artillery impact areas and various weapons firing ranges. According to Project Engineer Ray Livermore, the July Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting was positive with community leaders pleased with the progress. "There is a lot of work left to be done, but we're on track and we're working with locals to ensure their safety." The Corps' role is to clean up the ordnance as completely as is reasonable in the interests of human health and safety, given limited funding and the large number of FUDS sites nationwide that require attention.



Contractors search for shrapnel and other ordnance debris at a residence near Butner. During World War II, this once desolate section of the former Camp Butner was an artillery impact area. (Heusinkveld photos)



Workers (above) search Area 4, Range Complex 2. They found numerous pieces of shrapnel and fuses for 105 and 115 mm shells.



Ray Livermore (second from right) confers with Bob Nore (second from left), project manager of USA Environmental. Also pictured is Sam Colella (left) and Jerry Braddock, Senior UXO Supervisor, USA Environmental.

LEE GEE IS THE

” MARATHON MAN ”

“I initially started running to lose weight!”

Retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Lee Gee has run all over the world....literally. It all started in 1977 during an assignment to Helinikon Air Base in Athens, Greece. Gee felt a need to get himself into shape and began his passion for running. It was only fitting that he would begin his passion for long-distance running in the country that bore the namesake of the marathon, a Greek soldier named Pheidippides who was a messenger from the Battle of Marathon to Athens in 490 B.C.

“I think it’s more of a habit why I want to run or need to run,” he explained. “It’s like an addiction. Plus, it keeps me healthy. I always feel good after running. When you feel good you look good. And if you eat well you’re going to feel good about yourself.”

Gee proves the benefits of running every day. He’s 56 years old, although you’d never guess it. His body has been so conditioned by running that he’d put a younger, out-of-shape person to shame.

“I can go out and run six to 10 miles no problem. If I do six miles two or three times a week I can do 10 miles easily. That’s how I train for an easy 5k run.”

Gee has an impressive resume. He has 26 marathons and six half marathons under his belt. Some of those include the Athens Marathon, the Paris Marathon,

and the London Marathon. The list goes on.

“The London Marathon was fun because at the time (1982) I wore a USA t-shirt. The people were very receptive saying, ‘C’mon, USA!’ They help push you along. Felt like I had my own cheering squad!

There were about 22,000 people at the start. When you finish the race they put the medal on you and kiss you on the cheek. And Paris was very exciting, too. I remember it was raining, but the sun later came out which made it enjoyable. It was a bit difficult because of the cobblestones.”

The thought of running 26 miles is unfathomable for most people. Gee breaks it down into different segments, and welcomes encouragement from spectators.

“It’s a unique feeling once you run past a crowd of people. It feels like you’re just floating along, maybe up to 22 miles. Then you’re body starts getting tired. But if you train well you shouldn’t hit a wall at the 20-mile mark unless you’re running too fast. Everything has to be in place; the training, the



Lee Gee poses with trophies he’s won over the past 30 plus years. Inset: A few medals he received include the Athens and London Marathons and the U.S. Air Force Marathon.

weather, pacing. You don’t want to outpace yourself. An ideal race to run is pacing yourself so that the time at the half-way point (13.1 miles) should be within three minutes of the second half of the race.”

Lee’s best race was a second place finish when he ran in the SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Personnel Europe), Belgium Marathon. He completed that marathon in two hours, 53 minutes. That equated to roughly six minutes per mile.

Gee states that he hasn’t won a race yet this year. He’s gearing up for some 5k runs, though, and he’ll definitely have no problems getting back into shape.

“I haven’t won a race in my age category yet this year, but I need to. I need to get back on the track!” ■

“ARMY MOM” KEEPS FAITH DURING DAUGHTER’S SECOND DEPLOYMENT

Marquita Carlton enlisted in the Army on September 26, 2001. Then a recent high school graduate spurred on by the events of September 11th, she found herself on a whirlwind adventure leading up to two overseas deployments in the U.S. Army. Backing her up was her mother, Regulatory’s Gwen Robinson. An “Army Mom”, Robinson is her daughter’s biggest supporter. She has enjoyed watching her “bullheaded” daughter grow into a confident and mature young woman. Her little girl is now in her second deployment, this time to Iraq with the 10th Mountain Division.

“I have a phone number where I can call her at anytime,” she explained. “I’ll call her at about 11 or 12 o’clock at night which is early morning for her. I talk with her about four times a week courtesy of the Army. It’s different when she was in Afghanistan where I

had to wait when she called me.”

Waiting for that call from Afghanistan from her only child was nerve wracking. Not knowing what her daughter was doing or if she was safe only intensified Robinson’s maternal instincts. She knew that this is what her daughter had signed up for when she enlisted in the Army and she “backed her 100 percent.” But she still had those concerns that mothers share.

“As a Mom, it’s hard. It’s hard worrying about her, but when she was in New York (Fort Drum) I could put my hand on her. I could get on a plane and visit her. But you worry. I don’t know about other parents, but it’s hard on me...sleeping at night, wondering ‘is she safe?’ I know the Army is going to take good care of her, but as a Mom you worry. It was her choice to go in the Army and I’m behind her fully.”

Robinson looks back a few years ago when her daughter first joined the military. She is still amazed at how her daughter has changed.

“At first she didn’t like the Army. But it brought her down a notch...the discipline. It was hard for her to take instructions. She was bull headed, very stubborn. That I’ve seen change. She’s more mellow now. I talked with her during her basic training. We went through the crying and frustration of dealing with drill sergeants. It was rough and I felt sorry for her, but it changed her for the better.”

As for support, Robinson has not needed much. The Army offers support elements for parents, but she has her own way of not dwelling too much about her daughter.



Gwen Robinson holds a picture of daughter's basic training portrait taken at Fort Benning, Georgia in 2001.



SGT Carlton receives a citation for an Army Commendation Medal in Afghanistan for her work as an Information Technology specialist.

“My support system is keeping busy. Also, my support system is God who keeps me going. I know he supports me and keeps me going. I pray every day. You’ve got to have faith. God took care of her before, and God will take care of her now.”

Sergeant Carlton had wanted to finish her time in the Army, but her plans were curtailed under Stop/Loss. Mom Gwen wants her to consider the long haul in the service, but she trusts her daughter will make her own decision.

“I’m hoping that she’ll stay in and make it a career, but I can’t talk her into doing that. She’s 24 now and I hope she makes a good decision. Whatever she decides I’m right behind her.” ■

EVEN SANTA WEARS A LIFE JACKET

By Danny and Susan Martin

As the crowd of more than 100 people anxiously awaited the arrival of a promised “special visitor” at Philpott Lake’s Goose Point Park amphitheater on July 4th, they received some very bad news. Park Ranger Danny Martin had to break the news that Santa Claus had been forced down in a thunder storm and landed smack in the middle of Smith Mountain Lake about 65 miles away. After the “AWs” and “OHs” and “SIGHs” subsided, the bad news was overshadowed by some good news. It seems that Santa had a GPS unit on his sleigh and the Rangers at Philpott had learned his exact location. And because Santa and all his reindeer were wearing their life jackets, everyone was okay. The audience was further told that a Ranger was on the way to rescue Santa and deliver him to Philpott Lake. Immediately, all of the previous sadness was replaced by a chorus of “YEAs” and applause. The audience also learned that because Santa Claus was so impressed with the performance of his life jacket, he had requested Rangers to show everyone a water safety movie before he arrived. Rangers, not wanting to disobey Santa, showed the movie “Safe Passage” which teaches very important water safety informa-

tion and techniques. After the movie ended, a progress call was made by two-way radio to see where Santa was. Over the radio came a loud reply from “Rescue Ranger” Susan Martin, “I have Santa. He had his life jacket on. He is okay. We’ll be there soon.” The crowd was told, “Okay, everybody, listen for Santa.” Following a few moments of total silence, a distant siren was heard. Immediately one hundred people stood and faced the direction of the siren with all eyes peering into the darkness. Anticipation built as the siren’s wail got closer and closer. Finally, a flashing blue light appeared in the distance and a Ranger vehicle arrived at the amphitheater. Again, a chorus of “YEAs” and applause erupted as Santa emerged from the vehicle and was escorted to the stage by Ranger Susan Martin. Santa greeted everyone and delivered a great testimonial about the use of life jackets. Santa then had all of the kids line up and receive their gifts, which consisted of a “Buddy Beaver” water safety imprinted litter bag stuffed with toys sporting additional water safety messages.

Philpott Lake is blessed this season to have a volunteer, Paul Odom, who is a dead ringer for the jolly old man himself. Paul performs as Santa Claus



These luck children had the chance to meet with Saint Nick (aka Paul Odom) in July.

during the Christmas season and was anxious to bring an early Christmas to Philpott. His love for children and his dedication to keeping them safe was obvious as he went about his Santa Claus work.

Following the program, as everyone was walking back to their campsite, parents could be heard using words like “great,” “fabulous,” and “awesome.” Kids returned to their sites awed with gifts to keep them busy, armed with new knowledge to make them safe around the water, and with a memory of the day when Christmas came in July at Philpott Lake. ■

NESTING SEABIRDS CONTINUE TO USE DREDGE ISLAND TO RAISE THEIR YOUNG



Pelican chicks (above and below) are hatched in scruffy patches of vegetation, habitat that is preferred by the birds.



Environmental Section co-op Jessica Mallindine snaps a few images of baby pelicans on "Bird Island". (Heusinkveld photos)

Each year, thousands of pelicans, American Oyster Catchers, laughing gulls and other seabirds flock to Ferry Slip Island, a former USACE dredge island located in the center of the Cape Fear River near the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher that has become some of the last habitat for nesting seabirds. The Wilmington District works closely with North Carolina Audubon to replenish the island when sand is available. Walker Golder heads the Wilmington office of NC Audubon. "If we can continue to maintain the habitat, the island will become absolutely essential to maintaining the populations of seabirds in North Carolina."



Young gulls intermix with adult pelicans and other seabirds to learn how to fly. Parents of the young birds return throughout the day to feed and care for them.

CORPS FAMILY NEWS



Congratulations on Your Retirement, Keith!

Wilmington District Commander COL Jeff Ryscavage presents Regulatory's Keith Harris with an honorary vessel flag plaque during his retirement ceremony on August 1st. Sharing in the moment is Keith's wife, Fran. All of the Wilmington District Regulatory Division members, friends and colleagues wish Keith all the best during his retirement.



SAW retiree **Penny Chesnut's** second cousin Christina Loukas is a member of the U.S. Olympic Diving Team and is competing in Beijing. She's a student at Indiana University and is an eight-time All-American.

What

did Raleigh Regulatory's **Raleigh Bland** and his family do with their economic stimulus payment? Find out at the following link:

www.reflector.com/local/content/news/stories/2008/07/12/ChildrensPresents.html

NEW FACES IN THE DISTRICT

Debbie Willis comes to the Wilmington District from the Boise, Idaho office of the Walla Walla District. The NC State civil engineer has 24 years with USACE and works in Project Management. The Charlotte, NC native is married to Brayton Willis. Her interests and activities include going to the beach and sailing.



Greg Terry is a secretary for the Regulatory Division and comes to the District after three years at Sunny Point. He served eight and a half years in the U.S. Army. His hobbies include all types of card games including poker, and he enjoys playing billiards.



Leslie Davenport is a student trainee in CPOC. She's currently attending Cape Fear Community College. She is married to Michael Davenport



and they have three children, Sarah, Shannon and Ethan. She's interested in karaoke, watching scary movies and she enjoys cooking and catering.

Pastor Bill

Castles and Servants

I've been away from southeastern North Carolina for most of July, living in Durham and going to the Divinity School at Duke University as training for my second career.



Bill Adams

But even though I was away from all of the folks back in the Wilmington District office, I was reminded of you every day. Why? Because each morning as I walked to class I passed by the Davison Building of the Duke University School of Medicine (pictured). When I looked at that building how I could not help but think of all of you?

As a part of my new career I've been thinking a lot about service and servanthood lately. In the church, we are called to care for our fellow man. Through our churches many of us serve in a variety of ways; mission trips, food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, etc., and I'm glad that we do those things because they are really important. But ask yourself this – when you're serving, who is really in control? I think if we are honest with ourselves, most of us would have to admit that even when we serve others, *we* are still in control. *We* choose when and where we want to serve. But is that servanthood? Is there true servanthood in only doing the

things that we choose to do? No. True service means doing things because we are asked to do them, whether or not we like the idea. We are true servants only when we willingly place ourselves under the authority of someone else.

This is where the prompting of that old Corps castle comes in. One day as I walked through the campus and was



The Davison Building of the Duke University School of Medicine. (photo by Bill Adams)

again reminded of you all, it occurred to me that the military and the Corps are great models for servanthood. When a person decides they want to serve their country in the military, they enlist. This is their decision and they are in control of it. Upon enlistment however, they enter a period of true servanthood. They

have placed themselves under obedience to a higher authority - they give up control. And it is much the same with those in Civil Service. In many cases, Corps employees could take jobs in the private sector, earn more pay, and have more control over what they do each day, but where is the servanthood in that? No, throughout the world the Corps is made up of dedicated civilians who willingly place themselves under the authority of their leaders. They do it because *they believe in this great nation, they know what the Corps has done to help create it, and they believe in the promise of a great future.*

The Corps has helped build the greatest nation in the history of the world. As the new century presents the challenges of aging infrastructure and sea level rise, the Corps will be there to meet them. I'm proud of the Corps and all that it accomplished during my career, and I know that those accomplishments happened for only one reason - the Corps is made up of true servants! May God bless each of you as you continue as servants to this great nation! Essayons!

Blessing to all, Bill Adams

p.s. If anyone knows why the Davison Building has this interesting castle architecture I'd love to know. As always, questions or comments are welcomed.