Wilmington District News

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Billie Burnett, SAW Distinguished Employee

Pages 6-7

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On the Cover:
Billie Burnett is the 23rd distinguished employee of the Wilmington District.

Yep, we're special . . .

This issue of the Wilmington District News is packed with news about people who, by 'just doing their jobs' have made our District a standout in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

We doubt that public praise was the goal for Billie Burnett or John Hazleton or Donald Peterson or Chuck Wilson, or anyone else whose outstanding contributions are heralded in these pages. In fact, we know that wasn't their goal, because we had to convince them there was anything special about the stories they have to share!

For each of them, the true goals were more like this: doing their best every day to support our missions, serve our country, take care of people, work smarter and act as good stewards of public resources.

Going by our reputation throughout the Corps, that's most likely true of you as well.

If you are one of those working hard to make P2 a success, to meet the public and give good advice or information, to make the best of shrinking resources, to reconcile conflicting interests over a proposed project or a permit application, never think that your efforts go unrecognized. Maybe you won't hear about it today, this week, or even next year, but the good work you do is noticed and appreciated by our customers, the public, your co-workers, and higher headquarters.

As the well-earned accolades in this issue show, we're a District full of special people. You have an opportunity each day to be one of them. Keep up the good work!

How Does the Real Thing Look?

By Penny Schmitt

Paul Mason checks data with Ginny Mincey while Naomi Hazlett works with the P2 system.

What are they doing in that P2 Deployment Room anyway? Ginny Mincey, Naomi Hazlett, Jocelyn Collins, Holly Glasson, and several other Wilmington District Team members have been working over the past few weeks to start putting all of our project data into the new P2 system, which will, they say, completely renovate the way we are doing business.

How important is P2? Glenn McIntosh, overall Project Manager for P2 deployment, emphasizes that success with the new system is critical for the Wilmington District. "Aside from customer care, getting project schedules loaded has to be the number one priority for Project Managers. To accomplish this, we need all the support we can get from the technical project delivery team folks. The system is here — the time for workarounds is over. The time to focus on getting P2 right is right this minute!"

The process starts when project managers submit a PIF or Project Information Form to the Local Configuration Manager. When that data is loaded, the project is passed on to the project manager for approval. Once the PIFF is approved, the project automatically goes to CEFMS and sets up a project work item. Then the Local Configuration Manager establishes the project architecture and passes the project back to the Project Manager to schedule and resource. Finally, the project goes back to the Local Configuration Manager, who runs another set of CEFMS interfaces. Only then is it possible to do work through the P2 system and to create PR&Cs in CEFMS for the project.

"Probably it will take us up to a year to become really adept at using P2," Mincey said. "I think all of the Districts are finding that deployment is going slowly. There are 'bugs' to work through, but we are overcoming those." To date, Mincey says, 114 of 211 projects have been loaded on the system and eight projects have approved to be managed within the system. The Project Manager has been able to successfully perform labor PR&Cs and other actions. "This is a system that is complex and is trying to do a lot of different functions," Mincey said.

"This will be a behind-the-scenes system for many District team members," Naomi Hazlett said. "Unlike CEFMS, we won't all be having hands-on responsibilities." Yet P2 will affect everyone's working life. "You won't be able to call and change a labor PR&C in 20 minutes," Hazlett said. "The schedule can be altered, but there is a process, and it requires some time and resources."

Jocelyn Collins predicts the system will be very helpful in 'big picture' functions. "Tech Chiefs and Program Managers can more easily see and understand distribution of workload and do better planning," she said.

Mincey agreed. "The most important thing as we load data is to get good schedules from the Project Managers, with an estimated schedule up to three years out," she said.

Bottom line? If you have a part to play in making P2 deployment work, your contribution is vital! Pile on!

The system is here – the time for workarounds is over. The time to focus on getting P2 right is right this minute!

Colonel Charles Taylor, Commander of the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), escorts incoming Chief of Engineers Major General Carl Strock, left, and Lieutenant General Robert Flowers past the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps during the USACE change of command ceremony at Fort Myer, Virginia.

Maj. Gen. Carl A. Strock Takes Command of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Washington D.C., July 1, 2004 – Maj. Gen. Carl A. Strock took command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a military ceremony on July 1 at Fort Myer, Va. Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army Chief of Staff, hosted the ceremony. Strock replaces Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers who retired during the same ceremony after 35 years of Army service.

Flowers served as the Army's 50th Chief of Engineers from Oct. 2000 until today.

"General Flowers is a leader, and a warrior, and we are thankful for his dedicated service," said Schoomaker.

"The last four years, I've commanded a unique organization, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There's nothing else like it," said Flowers. "Unique in all the world, great civil servants, taking care of the nation and it's Armed Forces, and I'm enormously proud of all of them." He acknowledged the many Officers, Noncommissioned officers and fellow Soldiers, who mentored him.

During the ceremony, Flowers and Strock passed the ceremonial flag, symbolizing the change of command.

Strock is the 51st Chief of Engineers. The U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination as Chief of Engineers on June 25, with promotion to the rank of Lieutenant General. However, the promotion will not take place until later this summer.

"I am deeply honored and truly humbled to stand before you today," said Strock. "I am honored because there is no greater privilege than to be entrusted with command when your nation is at war."

Strock has served the Army 33 years. He was previously assigned as the Director of Civil Works, and the Director of Military Programs at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington D.C. He also served as Deputy Director of Operations for the Coalition Provisional Authority, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As Chief of Engineers he leads the world's largest public engineering agency with 35,000 employees.

MG Strock Message to the Corps

Corps Team,

I'd like to take a couple of minutes to let you know how honored I am to serve as the 51st Chief of Engineers, and to also share with you a sense of direction for this tremendous organization. I have been privileged to serve with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a district and as a division commander, and have always been impressed by the employees I have worked with or met along the way.

Many people wonder what changes a new leader will make, so I will let you know up front. Simply put, I will not make any immediate changes in the direction that the 50th Chief set for us. It hardly seems possible that four years have passed since LTG Flowers joined our ranks and we are just beginning to realize some of the results of his leadership and vision. During his tenure he increased our partnerships, formalized the Corps' ethic of environmental sustainability, activated a wartime division, and implemented USACE 2012. We will stay on that same path and will now consolidate the gains from changing our business processes and structure.

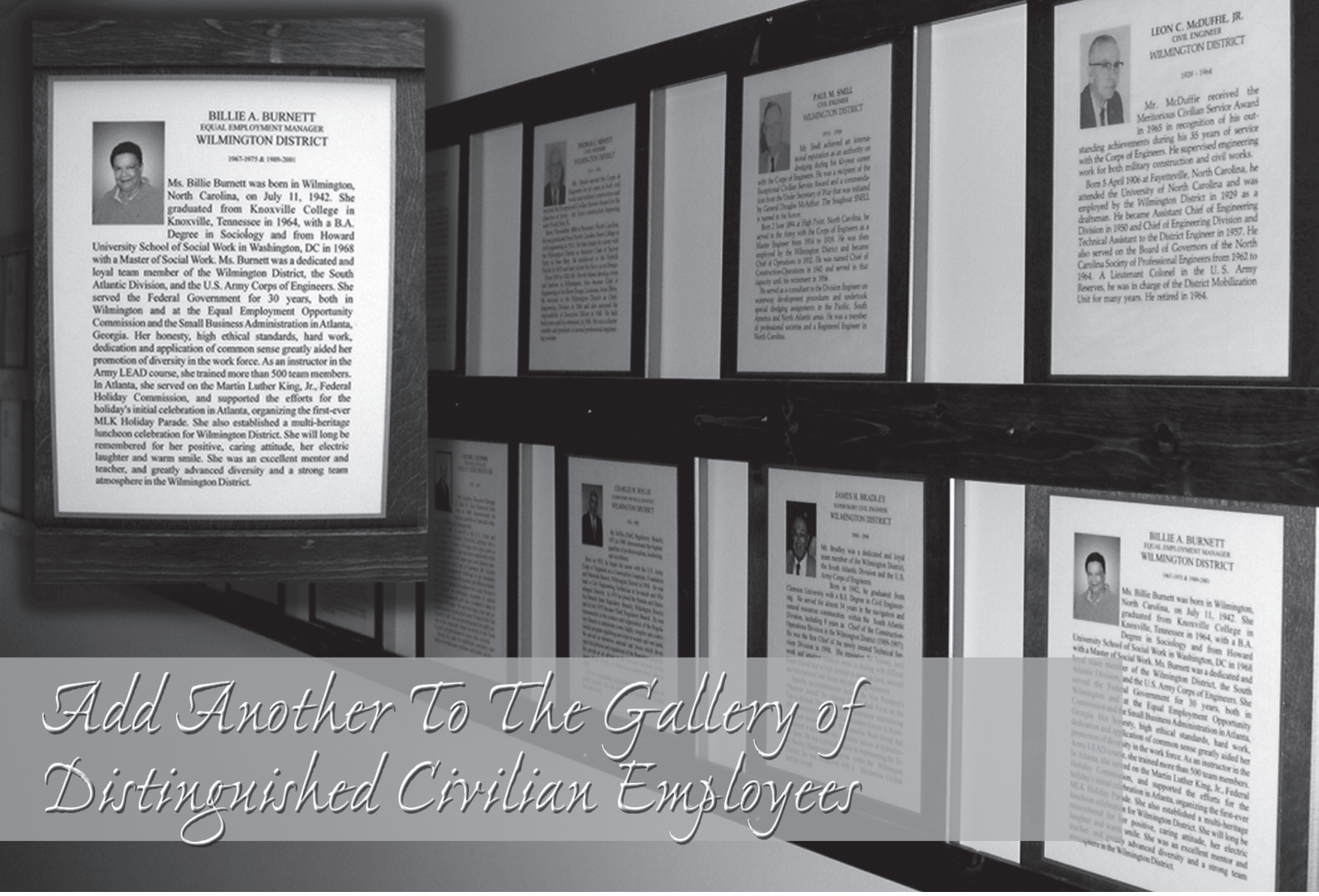
These are challenging times. We are an Army and nation at war and we face fiscal constraints. The path we are taking will help us meet those challenges. We must continue to embrace change, but for right now it's important to maintain continuity as we continue the implementation of USACE 2012 and he fielding of P2. This includes maintaining our mission focus and ensuring that we are good stewards of our resources.

In the near term, I will meet with Corps leaders, and I will also begin meeting with customers, partners and stakeholders to learn about their direction - their vision, priorities and issues. I also want to hear from each of you and will work with the staff to develop a means to do that. In the interim do not hesitate to drop me a note if there is a burning issue that you'd like me to look into.

Major General Carl Strock, 51st Chief of Engineers.

Periodically I will send emails to update you on what is happening. In the meantime, I ask that you continue to focus on your mission - and continue to exercise your initiative in the spirit of the "Just Do It" card. I look forward to the next four years and to seeing what we will accomplish for the nation and the Armed Forces.

ESSAYONS!
Carl Strock



Add Another To The Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees

"I was shocked when I got it. That is an all-white male wall and it has been since they put it up there."

That was the initial reaction of former Wilmington District Equal Employment Opportunity advisor Billie Burnett when she learned her picture would hang on the Wall of Distinguished Employees with 22 other former employees. She says she's still coming to grips for being honored for her outstanding contribution to the District, but she feels it will eventually sink in.

"I'm not sure why I received it. I think I did a lot for the Corps, but at the same time there were managers who did and didn't agree with me. As far as I'm concerned, my job was to make sure everybody had an equal opportunity."

Born and raised in Wilmington during racial unrest, Burnett was determined at a young age to make sure she and other minorities were given a fair shot in life. Stored in her long-term memory are events and images that would eventually give her insight into ways of breaking down the walls of segregation and racism.

"Anger basically gets you nowhere. The ability to compromise, the ability to reach is the only thing that will turn things around sometimes and even that doesn't sometimes work," she

Billie Burnett in her Wilmington home.

says. "When you start talking about anger...I guess when you grow up in the segregated South you had to learn how to get around that system. For example, we used to have a drive called 'Peanuts for Polio.' The money went to the Polio Foundation. But blacks and whites in Wilmington couldn't sell on the same day. You sold at one point, and they sold at another. So you grew up in that type of segregation. There's a certain gut feeling you learn to get; when to react and when not to react.

With a few sets of life skills she learned in Wilmington she set off for Tennessee where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Knoxville College. After college she headed to Washington, D.C. to work for the government at the National Urban Coalition. After three years there and passing her probationary period she came home to Wilmington and applied for a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"The job I started out with was a weird job. It was Equal Employment Opportunity office and Emergency Operations Planning. I wore two different hats. It was a challenge and it was interesting. It was an interesting experience to go into the Corps because I was the only black person other than Gary Spool who was down in the print shop."

Burnett recalls that she felt comfortable in her new job, but at times the culture of the area would be very apparent.

"It was not a hostile environment, but it was not the most open environment. Bill Harris was the first professional we ever hired from North Carolina Agriculture and Technical School of Engineering. We started recruiting from the high schools and people who were moving here."

She eventually left the District for Atlanta to work as the EEO officer for the Small Business Administration and as a specialist at the Equal Opportunity Commission. On top of that she was a special coordinator for the very first Martin Luther King Junior federal holiday celebration.

The call came again for Billie to come back home, so she packed her bags and returned to the District. During her second time here she was instrumental in training 500 people in the Army's Leadership, Education and Development course (LEAD). As time passed she earned a reputation as a very strict, yet very fair diplomat in improving workplace relations.

PHOTO BY SCOTT MANERS

District Commander Colonel Ray Alexander presented Burnett with her plaque at Corps Day May 25th.

"Now admittedly, and the managers at the Corps can tell you, I CAN react, but it's a matter of setting a goal, working toward a goal and if you can get to that goal you've won. You can set minorities up to fail very easily. You push the person to hire you, and you have to balance it all like giving support to those who need support and you have to be able to fight those people who need to be fought, but you have to know how to fight and when to fight. There were days when I'd have to get up out of my office and walk around the building because I knew the fuse was burning mighty short."

Looking back at her career Burnett feels that as an EEO officer she left some unfinished business. For her, there's room for improvement.

"My goal was to make the Corps an open society. It still isn't. The Wilmington District is a microcosim of the City of Wilmington. What happens in the City of Wilmington shows up in the Wilmington District. From a socialization point working together, yeah we work together. But when we walk out of the building...I go to my side of town and you go to your side. But I think things have improved overall, but we still have a long way to go in Wilmington. Who is to measure how we reach for perfection?"

– By Hank Heusinkveld

Love of Nature and Job Earns Wilson Employee of Year

Chuck Wilson in a lush, thriving marshland of Island 13 that he helped create.

"I guess I enjoy my job. I try to do the right thing, I'm enthusiastic about what I do and I'm glad I was noticed by my peers."

So says Chuck Wilson who was presented the title of Employee of the Year during Corps Day on June 25th.

Wilson first came to the District as a student aid and was later employed full time after earning a degree in Marine Biology. Some of his first work was helping to design small and large flood control projects aimed at minimizing impacts on the environment. After a short time his expertise became noticed and he was given more complex work.

"I guess I've been fortunate to have been able to pick up a lot of the new types of work that have come to the District. I'm currently involved in the ecosystem restoration. I think my work with the traditional projects in developing mitigation plans gave me a great background that allowed me to move right into the ecosystem restoration business constructing functioning ecosystems of restoration rather than mitigate for loss of projects."

Wilson's work has gained him credibility with agencies outside of the Corps of Engineers like the North Carolina Coastal Federation for his success with oyster habitat restoration.

"This year several of the restoration projects that we've been working on were noticed. Island 13 received the Chief of Engineers merit award. We have also put in for a Coastal America award for the Festival Park project that we're working on in Manteo. We have great hopes that that will receive national recognition."

Ever humble, Wilson credits much of his success to keeping his ears open when he was a young biologist. He listened closely to people he respected and trusted and followed their lead.

"I've had the opportunity to work with a large variety of projects in a wide number of habitats, worked for and mentored by some excellent people. Bill Adams took me under his wings and showed me what a biologist is supposed to do, and I worked for Coleman Long and he gave me great training in the planning aspect of our job. It helped me understand the design of the various aspects of our job."

Although Wilson's appreciative of his new title he strongly believes in team building and the whole team concept.

"We have a great staff. Most have been here for a long time. Each person has a specialty area, and were able to do a lot of great things. We rely on each other for expertise to cover a wide range of resources and impacts for that type of thing."

Always looking around the next corner, Wilson has his eyes set on even more ecosystem restoration.

"Right now I'm working on a plan for the Tar Pamlico River Basin Study. I think there are great opportunities in the Pamlico Sound for oyster restoration and we'll see great things from that in the future like more oysters."

PHOTOS BY SCOTT MANERS

Wilson with Colonel Alexander after being named Employee of the Year.

Hurricane Season is Here!

The infamous Hatteras breach was a major natural disaster caused by Hurricane Isabel last year. HEUSINKVELD PHOTO

By Your EM TEAM: Ron Stirrat, Nancy Raynor & Diane Lastinger

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from 1 June through 30 November annually. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasters are predicting an above-normal Atlantic Hurricane Season this year. The outlook is for 12 to 15 tropical storms, with six to eight systems becoming hurricanes, and two to four of those major hurricanes. This forecast indicates a 50 percent probability of an above-normal season, a 40 percent probability of a near-normal season and only a 10 percent chance of a below-normal season. Similar seasons averaged two to three landfalling hurricanes in the continental United States.

"Last year three tropical storms and three hurricanes affected the United States. Hurricane Isabel caused 17 deaths and more than $3 billion in damages. We cannot stop these storms, but we can take steps to limit our vulnerability. Awareness and preparedness for hurricanes, and even tropical storms, and knowing what to do to mitigate their devastating effects, are our best defense," said undersecretary for Homeland Security Michael Brown.

The major impact of Hurricane Isabel was felt in northeastern North Carolina and southern Virginia. The flooding resulting from the storm was devastating for the Outer Banks. She served as a wake-up call for coastal North Carolina. It had been four years since Hurricane Floyd struck coastal North Carolina, and most people tend to become complacent when several years pass without the threat of a severe storm. DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

The District Circular 500-1-3, Hurricane Preparedness, was distributed to all SAW employees earlier this year. The Hurricane Circular provides information for protective measures for the workplace, as well as your home. Please take the time to review it and ensure that you are prepared in the event we become storm victims this year. We cannot prevent the storms, but we can take action to protect our property and keep safe.

Although Hurricane Season begins on 1 June, the most active season for the Atlantic coast is generally in September. Hurricane Fran made landfall on 5 September 1996; Hurricane Dennis brushed the coast on 5 September 1999, followed by Hurricane Floyd on 16 September 1999; with Hurricane Isabel striking the coast on 18 September 2003. This gives you some idea of when NOT to plan your vacation!

The District is in great shape to deal with whatever Hurricane Season sends our way…response teams have been trained and systems tested. Hopefully, we will not be called upon to respond….we plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Hope you have a great summer and safe Hurricane Season!

John Hazelton:
Water Management Complex Job in Afghanistan

John Hazelton, fourth from left, poses with other members of the Afghan Engineer District.

John Hazelton can add another notch to his belt of countries he volunteered to travel to as a Corps employee. Last year he was a member of the Forward Engineer Support Team, and helped rebuild Iraq's infrastructure. But the job he volunteered for in Afghanistan was different. He worked primarily in water resource management, but as he puts it there was little if any water management in the whole country before help arrived.

"It was disorganized. The warlords controlled the bottom end of the Helmand Valley, and somebody else controlled where the (Kajakai) dam is in the highlands," he says. "It's not centrally controlled. The U.S. had actually gone in and built a lot of irrigation systems and Kajakai Dam in the 1950s. We created the Helmand Valley Authority similar to something like the Tennessee Valley Authority."

Historically, Hazelton says the U.S. had problems fixing the hastily-built irrigation network in the 1970s which was fueled by political competition between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. Everything changed when the Soviets invaded in 1979. According to him, there've been a lot of bad irrigation and water management practices ever since.

"Our goal now is to try to fix the problems with the original design of the whole irrigation scheme and also rehab two power units in the dam."

Hazelton says what makes tapping water difficult in this mountainous country currently going through a drought is that there are nine major water shed areas, the largest of which is in the Helmand Valley near Kandahar. The Helmand River drains about 60 percent of the country and it trickles into neighboring Iran.

"Dams are there which initially served for irrigation, but the government shifted to hydroelectric power for Kandahar. So, there was beginning to be a conflict between irrigation issues and power production."

As disorganized as Afghanistan's water management is Hazelton found it to be challenging and worthwhile. In addition to helping rehabilitate the dam he looked at projects that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) had set up.

"There were about 100 projects ranging from simple culverts to clearing out canals. I took work orders to see if they were making sense and that it was a sound project and I monitored it as it went along."

The days were long and slow, and Hazelton says he never felt in grave danger. He used common sense he developed in Iraq and simply did what U.S. military escorts told him to do.

"Whenever we went out to the field we always had to have protection and we'd have to recruit a specialist or a sergeant."

During downtime, Hazelton had numerous opportunities to explore the country and meet its people. He ventured into bazaars for shopping and took in the natural beauty of Afghanistan's mountains.

"It was neat just to take a look around the country. It was something out of National Geographic. We were in

(continued on next page)

Afghan soldiers perform a Pushtan dance. (Hazelton photo.)

Donald Peterson:
Serving on His Own Terms

Donald Peterson comes from a military family. His Dad's a retired Army warrant officer who works at Fort Bragg, and his brother is a first lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. He grew up in an environment where he was used to seeing Soldiers at home and on base. So when he arrived in Iraq he quickly got used to his surroundings and was up to speed on his job in no time. And he made up for time he missed for a previous deployment with the Forward Engineer Support Team.

"I volunteered for the FEST team. It seemed like the right thing to do. I had no reason not to go, so that gave me the reason to go."

Serving as an accounting and budget analyst and advisor for the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) Peterson says going from an all-civilian workplace to a military tempo was overwhelming, but something that he adjusted to.

"It was really a lot of work. There wasn't any time to travel or socialize. You have to extend yourself to absorb everything that they throw at you. I didn't experience any slackers in my office. If you're going to be there for four or five months you have to make the best of it."

Peterson says he made the best of it by turning an intense workday into his own form of education that he couldn't get from a book.

"I learned a lot about teaching people. Part of it was like school away from school. It's just the nature of the deployment. You have to get yourself up to speed, then get a new person up to speed in a short amount of time. In 12-hour days you can get a lot done."

He admits there was little to do during time off. But he was fortunate enough to have something that others deployed to Iraq could only dream of; immediate family contact.

"I got to see my younger brother who's a first lieutenant assigned to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. It was good to see him, although it was brief. I only got to see him never more than an hour or two. He was somewhere in the outlying area."

His four-month stint left Peterson with a new appreciation of simple things like the beauty of Wilmington's beaches and using silverware regularly instead of plastic utensils. And he's game for a second trip.

"I'm always open for opportunities. Afghanistan could be interesting!"

(continued from previous page)

downtown Kabul going down a street and coming our way was a herd of a hundred water buffalo."

As other Wilmington District members have found out during deployments there's instant camaraderie with fellow Americans and people from other countries. He enjoyed the international flair of the contingent of folks who also volunteered to go to Afghanistan, and had no problems finding the best places to enjoy time off, even if it meant "crossing over the border" to eat.

"The food wasn't that good at the Trans Atlantic Center house! It was interesting when we'd go to the international compounds. It was neat to go into a mess hall where there are a hundred people and there are only four Americans. That was great and there was very good food there. The Canadians may have had the best food, but the Italians had Indian cooks, so it was good, too."

A river basin in the rugged terrain of Afghanistan.

Hazelton feels his work is not finished. With two deployments under his belt he hasn't ruled out a third.

"I know there are more watersheds that need work. If they needed me, yeah, I'd go again."

Burn 24 Comes to Scott Lake

> "Kerr Scott is the next mountain biking Mecca in North Carolina..."
>
> – Jason Bumgarner

More than 600 people descended upon W. Kerr Scott Lakes Dark Mountain Recreation Area over the Memorial Day Weekend. These particular people didn't come to fish, boat, or swim-they came to ride mountain bikes.

That's right! From 12:00 p.m. Saturday, May 29, through 12:00 pm Sunday, May 30 bikers were competing in the BURN 24 Challenge, a race where competitors traverse the course over a single 24-hour period to determine who has the stamina to survive. The 6.7-mile course traveled over the newly inaugurated mountain bike trails built in cooperation with the Brushy Mountain Cycling Club (BMCC) and included a ride around the edge of the open field.

The four-acre field at Dark Mountain was packed with over 400 people that included cyclist support personnel, vendors, volunteers, and friends and family. Up from 130 last year, there were 196 competitors in five categories: men's solo, women's solo, doubles and co-ed and all-male teams with as many as five members in the open team category. The goal; complete as many laps as possible in 24 hours. Team members rotated throughout the race while soloists slept when they could.

Frequent participants say it's actually three different races; that is, the race looks totally different at the beginning, the middle, and the end. They were right. Participants ran a lap around the gravel path in the recreation field before they began the race. One exuberant participant even wore a black gold lameé unitard complete with cape. Races started slowing down by midnight, and by the end of the race, riders slowly rode their bikes to the first hill, then got off their bikes and pushed them up the hill.

The men's and overall solo winner in the BURN 24 Challenge was Bob Anderson of Crozat, Virginia, who made 30

laps around the 6.7 mile course (about 200 miles) in the 24 hours. Vicky Camp of Asheville, North Carolina took the women's solo with 23 laps.

This was not just a regional race. Team Spinz from Greensboro, North Carolina took the two-man team competition with 36 laps, the same as the co-ed winners Team Critter. Deliverance out of Wise, Virginia, took tops for the all-male team with a whopping 41 laps. That's an amazing 274 miles in 23 hours, 19 minutes.

While most participants were from North Carolina and the surrounding states, cyclists came from as far as Canada, Puerto Rico, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

"Kerr Scott is the next mountain biking Mecca in North Carolina," said Jason Bumgarner, BMCC coordinator for the event. "The BURN 24 puts Dark Mountain in the ranks of Tsali and other nationally known trails in Western North Carolina."

Tyler Benedict, founder and director of the BURN 24 Challenge, started the race four years ago in an effort to promote the energy drink he developed called BURN. Benedict makes the drink in Greensboro and sells in several states.

"[Brushy Mountain Cycling Club] members have logged more than 1,200 hours adding over six miles of single-track trail Dark Mountain," said Terry Ramsey, W. Kerr Scott Reservoir project engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The club landed a $10,000 tourism development grant from the Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority in July 2003 to support trail construction efforts sanctioned by the International Mountain Biking Association.

Not content to rest on our laurels, BMCC members, the Boy Scouts, and other volunteers continue to build with the extension of the Overmountain National Historical Trail. This multi-purpose trail, when completed, will be approximately 30-miles long and will connect Bandit's Roost Campground with the town of Elkin North Carolina.

Story by
Miriam Fleming
and
Mike Carrol

Photos by
W. Kerr Scott Staff

Website Highlights

Jan Wutkowski

Check out this month's offering of websites: How to provide food for urban wildlife, and USGS's studies on hurricane and extreme storm impact, among others.

Harmony — John James Audubon
http://www.mcq.org/audubon/menu.html

John James Audubon's Birds of America, while not the first attempt to paint and describe all the birds of America, remains the gold standard against which all followers are measured. This online exhibit offers online visitors access to the 435 plates of this work. The site offers a brief overview of the work of Audubon and quick access to his drawings, which may be browsed by page number or by their common or Latin names. One feature which should not be missed are the beautiful short Flash presentations which feature original music, and which may be accessed by clicking on different birds within the painting on the site's homepage.

Wildlifeforever: Gardening for Wildlife Conservation
http://www.wildlifeforever.net/index.htm

The Wildlifeforever website depicts creator Paula Graham's own several-year project to restore three acres to its prairie and wildflower roots. "Our gardens have become the chief refuge for the wildlife that can adapt. Owls, foxes and even badgers have moved into the towns. It is up to us to provide them with their basic needs. Anyone with a garden, a field or an orchard, however large or small, can come to the rescue by caring for it in a wildlife-friendly way," says Graham. Site visitors can check out the Food, Water, Shelter, Meadow, and Feeding sections. Interesting site for those considering a similar project with several acres or those with a small urban yard who are considering gardening for wildlife.

2004 Science and Engineering Indicators
http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/newsroom/pr.cfm?ni=90

The 2004 Science and Engineering (S&E) Indicators report, produced biennially by the National Science Board, is considered "the nation's most authoritative source for national and international science and engineering trends in education, the labor force, academia and the global marketplace, as well as nationwide and statewide expenditures for research and development." The NSF press release summarizes the findings and offers a link to the full (much longer) report. This 2004 issue is the first time that the report also includes a chapter with state-by-state breakdowns of key S&E indicators.

Windows 2000 Brown Bag Tips...and more!!

Shannon Rinehart

Capture E-Mail Addresses Easily

You can quickly add someone's e-mail address to the Address Book in Microsoft Outlook(r) Express (or Contacts, in Outlook) by opening a message that person has sent, right-clicking the name in the From: line, and then clicking Add to Address Book (or Add to Contacts, in Outlook) on the shortcut menu.

Backups Make Great Safety Nets

Most computer experts agree that the three most important security safeguards are "backup, backup, and backup." A good backup provides a final safety net should an intruder or a virus get past all your other defenses and destroy your data. Follow the steps in this checklist to be sure you have a complete and current backup of the information on your computer.

- Decide on a back-up method. Back up selected folders and files, complete partitions, or a combination.
- Decide on appropriate media for the back-up method you select.
- Delete data you won't ever need.
- Using partitions, folders, or both, organize your remaining data so that files you use and modify frequently are in one area and seldom-changed files are in another.
- Devise a back-up schedule and an automated way to implement it.
- Create a full system backup on a regular basis. If you use the back-up program included with Windows, be sure to make an automated system recovery disk (Windows XP) or an emergency repair disk (Windows 2000).
- Create a backup of your high-use documents on a more frequent basis.
- Protect your backups with a password.
- Store your backups in a secure, off-site location.
- Learn how the data recovery process works, and periodically test the restore process.

Corps Family News

*Members of the Wilmington District presented former District Engineer Paul Denison with a special gift in recognition of his 20 years of outstanding contributions to the Cape Fear Post of the Society of Military Engineers. During that time he served as an officer, board member and supporter of the scholarship fund. District Engineer **Colonel Ray Alexander** presented Denison with an engraved survey marker with a pen and pencil set. Pictured from left to right with COL Alexander are SAME members **Tony Carter**, Denison, COL (Ret.) Wayne Hanson and **Steve Aiken**. Denison served as District Engineer from 1968 to 1971.*

Kristin Leigh Crowder, daughter of Kerr Park Ranger **Ed Crowder** was presented at the Cotillion in Mecklenburg County. She is a member of the Mecklenburg Junior Women's Assoc, served as secretary 2 years. A senior at Bluestone High School, she is a member of the Beta club, Monogram Club, FBLA, Varsity Volleyball Team, and the National Honor Society.

Angela Michelle Jacobs, daughter of **Gloria Price**, and DeAndrae Jabbar Jackson were married on July 10, 2004 at the Union Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmington.

Wesley Storm, son of Kerr Park Ranger **Sherrie Storm**, received the "President's Award for Academic Excellence" during graduation ceremonies at Park View High School. This award is given at the "exit" levels of elementary, middle and High School.

Marianne Wells, daughter of Kerr Powerhouse employee **Mary Wells**, became engaged to be married on May 9, 2004. She and her fiance Chris Early are planning a June 2005 wedding.

Will Harlon, Kerr Forester and Melissa Noble, Cube, Inc. employee were married on May 29, 2004 on the shores of Kerr Reservoir. They are proud parents of a daughter, Daisy, and make their home in Palmer Springs, Virginia.

Kerr Assistant Manager **Tim Rainey** and his wife, Marina welcomed the birth of their first child, a son, Timothy Sullivan Rainey. He was born at Duke Univ. Medical Center at 3:38 PM on June 17th, and weighed in at seven pounds 10 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Mia Brooke Sweeney, granddaughter of **Jackie Cook**, was born to Dr. John and Kim Sweeney on 24 June 04 at 1:23 p.m. She was 20 and a quarter inches long and seven pounds, 15 ounces.

Reaching Out

Park Rangers **Mike Large** and **Sherrie Storm** performed a musical program for 30 members of the Dowling Family, as part of their 25th Anniversary of Volunteerism for Kerr Reservoir.

Park Ranger **Dave Deemer** participated in an outreach program for the VA Welcome Center in Bracey as part of the VA Tourism partnership. Dave gave the Corps story to approximately 900 visitors throughout the day.

On July 2, 2004 **Jory Sheperd** spoke about butterflies at the W Kerr Scott Visitor Assistance Center. Included was a section on how to preserve specimens for display.

*Congratulations to **Jim Butler** on his 38 years of distinguished service! His very successful career began in 1966 with active duty in the U.S. Army. From there he joined the USACE Marine Design Center in Philadelphia where he provided mechanical, electrical, and machinery support to the Corps dredge fleet. His outstanding work included design and execution of performance improvements to the hopper dredges BIDDLE and MARKHAM. As Lead Project Engineer you had primary responsible for the Design Center's hull work on the 20,000 HP hopper dredge WHEELER, the largest seagoing hopper dredge in the United States, and one of the very few of our dredges available for world-wide operations.*

In 1990 he left Philadelphia to assume a critically important leadership position as Chief of Operations here in the Wilmington District. He was quickly recognized by the existing Commander for bringing a more proactive management philosophy to bear on our District's operations. Under his direction our hydrographic survey capabilities have gained national recognition, the conditions of our public recreation facilities have improved markedly, annual visitation at our reservoirs is at an all time high, and our small fleet of dredge, debris and survey boats is more versatile than ever, with operations extending throughout the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Jim, you'll be greatly missed. Keep healthy and enjoy your next career, whatever it may be.

Planning to Retire Soon? Read On...

If you are now considering retirement, the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) strongly recommends that you submit your retirement application package to the ABC-C within 90-120 days in advance of your intended retirement date. A timely submission will help ensure a timely first annuity payment from the Office of Personnel Management.

Consequently, a delay in submitting your application package will directly impact the processing of your retirement; this often results in a delay in the receipt of your first annuity payment. ABC-C statistics indicate, for example, that about 75% of the employees who submitted retirement applications within 1-15 days before retirement may encounter a delay in annuity receipt. Provided below are the percentages of those applications that were processed timely based on the amount of advance receipt of the retirement application from the employee:

- Retirement packages received more than 60 days in advance- 98.46%
- Retirement packages received within 31 - 60 days - 96.74%
- Retirement packages received within 16 - 30 days - 92.78%
- Retirement packages received within 1 - 15 days - 24.26%
- Overall timeliness for May, 2004 was 77.22%.

The above statistics reveal that it is in your best interest to submit your retirement application to the ABC-C within the recommended timeframe. Although there may be situations that prevent an early submission, ABC-C strives for timely application processing and continues to provide service of the highest quality to Department of the Army employees.

To learn more about the retirement process, visit the ABC-C web site at https://www.abc.army.mil.

Retiree News

Attendees: Dan Grimsley, Ken Old, Bettye and Bob Swart, Augustus B. Moore, Slyvia and Rex Phillips, Joe Lewis.

Activities: Many of our people appear to still be out of town. With the extremely hot weather outside, many may have simply chosen to stay home near the air conditioners.

Gus Moore , after 13 months, has that 54 year old house ready to moved into, stating that it had been a big project for an old man.

It was good to have Joe Lewis back with us. There was some comments about all the gas it took to drive from the beach up here, something about two dollars added to the cost of his meal. He was, of course, comparing the cost of a full, three course, meal with that peanut butter sandwich he usually has at lunch time. Comparing comment made by Gus, in that it took a quarter of a tank of gas for him to come lunch with us.

We are looking for more people be with us next month on the 2nd Thursday, August 12th at Whitey's Restaurant on Market Street.

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