



Vol. XXIII No. 3
July-September
2011

Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT

**Flooding soaks
Seattle District**

Inside this issue:

New Commander 2
 Change of Command 3
 Chief Joseph Dam spill 4
 Levee Vegetation 5
 Spring flooding 6 to 7
 Levee rehab. roundup 8
 Wier Repair 9
 New warrior barracks 10
 Around the District 11

Flagship is your Seattle District news and feature magazine, published bi-monthly. If you have news, suggestions for articles or ideas you think would be useful for **Flagship**, we'd like to hear from you. Send your ideas to the editor or call the Public Affairs Office at 206-764-3750.



Cover: Flooding hits the Yakima basin's Naches valley in May. (Photo by Charles Ifft)



The Combined Federal Campaign season is fast approaching. If you are interested in volunteering for this year's CFC season, please see your supervisor.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Vol. XXIII No. 3

New District Commander joins the team

Hello Seattle District Team! I'm your new District Commander and Engineer, Colonel Bruce Estok. I am extremely honored and excited to be joining the District.

I knew a bit about Seattle District coming in, having previously worked with and had a favorable impression of the district from interacting with the district's project management and construction staff in 2004-2006 while I was at Fort Bragg, managing the Army Special Operations Command Military Construction program.

I'm extremely honored and excited to be joining you. Personally, being in Seattle allows my wife and children to be close to family in Portland and Olympia. Professionally, Seattle District's significant program across a full service mission set in the Pacific Northwest's complex environment is as good as it gets.

My sense is that while the District is large, it is still personal, and will afford the opportunity to meet and work with just about all of you in some capacity.

I had a great transition with Col. Wright and appreciate the warm welcome. My thanks go out to those who worked to get my family situated in Cavanaugh House, organized a superb change of command ceremony and for all your efforts to get me up to speed on district programs, partners, projects and people.

In my first few months I plan to meet people around the District and observe how we're operating. I want to learn more about the district's current situation and direction. I also want to meet with our partners outside the district to continue those strong relationships.

My near-term focus areas include delivering fiscal 2011 work on time, preparing for this upcoming flood season, attention to personnel matters such as staffing, recognition and transition plans, preparing and planning for fiscal 2012, and moving forward on important environmental issues, like regula-

tory initiatives, restoration activities and levee vegetation framework actions.

I look forward to meeting everyone and learning about your role in the district's public service mission in the Pacific Northwest.



Col. Bruce A. Estok

Editor's note: Col. Estok's prior assignments include serving as Engineer Plans and Operations Chief for U.S. Army Pacific in Hawaii, and Commander and District Engineer for the Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District from 2006-2008. He served in a variety of combat engineer leadership and staff positions at Fort Stewart, Georgia, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and in Korea, to include deployments for Operation Desert Shield/Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Colonel Estok is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and holds a Civil Engineering Master of Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a Professional Engineer licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Colonel Estok is married to the former Carrie Minoggie of Sauvie Island, Oregon. They have twins, Connor and Sophia, nine, and a yellow Labrador retriever, Sauvie.

Additional information about Col. Estok's background can be found in his biography on the Corporate Board team page of eNews.



Glenn Kato works as a civil engineer in Design Branch, Civil Section. Glenn provides tremendous support to numerous projects including Albeni Falls Fish Passage Prototype, Howard Hansen Dam projects, Modification of Section 205 Flood Control Project Elwha River and Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration. He contributes his civil engineering expertise to projects from inception through construction plan set completion. He demonstrates a strong ability to analyze and solve problems, make sound decisions and is a go-to person for others. This Flagship is for you.

Flagship

Col. Bruce A. Estok, Commander
Patricia Graesser, Chief, Public Affairs
Elizabeth Townsell, Editor
Scott Lawrence, Contributor
Jaki Johnson, Contributor

Flagship is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 360-1, published by the Public Affairs Office, Seattle District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 3755, Seattle, WA 98124-3755. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Questions may be sent to the above address.



From top clockwise: Carrie, Connor and Sophia Estok and Sanoma Jefferson; The 1st Corps Honor Guard from Joint Base Lewis McChord; Lt. Col. William Acheson, Col. Bruce Estok, Brig. Gen. John McMahon, Col. Anthony Wright and Olton Swanson; Kelsey Allen and Katie McGillvray; Col. Estok hands the colors to Olton Swanson.



(Photos by Scott Lawrence and Patricia Graesser)

Chief Joseph spill deflectors actively reduce gas levels



During peak spill operations for flood risk management in June, Chief Joseph Dam's spill deflectors substantially reduced total dissolved gas levels downstream. (Tim Rose Photo)

By Scott Lawrence

Public Affairs Office

While spilling water from Chief Joseph Dam recently for flood risk management operations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers confirmed good news for fish: The spill deflectors were substantially reducing gas levels in the river downstream from the dam near Bridgeport, Wash.

In a year of historically high water supplies, Grand Coulee Dam, located upstream from Chief Joseph, was spilling high volumes of water to mitigate flood risks and subsequently elevating total dissolved gas levels, or TDG, in the river.

During the peak of spill operations the average mixed river TDG levels in Rufus Woods Lake upstream from Chief Joseph Dam were approximately 135-140 percent of naturally occurring saturation levels because of spillway operations at Grand Coulee Dam.

In the spillway stilling basin, however, levels were reduced to 117-119 percent after Chief Joseph's spill deflectors allowed some gas to dissipate. Further downstream, powerhouse flows which do not alter TDG levels mixed with lower spillway flows and resulted in TDG levels of approximately 125-130%.

"We designed the spill deflectors to reduce TDG levels, but had not expected

the reduction to be so substantial," said Adam Price, a water manager for the Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District.

Spilling water at dams can result in increased TDG levels in downstream waters by plunging the aerated spill water to depth where hydrostatic pressure increases the solubility of atmospheric gases.

The spill deflectors, which resemble a ramp at the foot of the dam, force water outward horizontally instead of allowing water to plunge to depth, creating an effect where spilled water skims along the river's surface allowing gases to escape more easily and lowering TDG levels.

High levels of TDG have the potential to cause gas bubble trauma in fish and other aquatic species. It is similar to decompression sickness, or "the bends" in human divers. Symptoms in fish include bubbles in fins, eyes or other tissues

and can be lethal when fish are exposed to high levels for a prolonged period.



Water plunges from Chief Joseph Dam's 19 spillways, hitting the spill deflectors which force water outward horizontally, allowing gas to dissipate. (Tim Rose Photo)

Levee vegetation fuels interagency teamwork

By Patricia Graesser

Public Affairs Office

Levee sponsors in the Puget Sound region are looking for ways to reduce the flood risk for those living behind levees and to protect natural resources. Federal and state agencies and King County are working together to develop tools for levee sponsors to meet Army Corps of Engineers levee management standards, protect critical habitat for fish listed under the Endangered Species Act, and meet Native American Treaty obligations.

To remain eligible for participation in the Corps' levee Rehabilitation and Inspection Program, which authorizes the Corps to pay most or all of approved levee repairs, levee sponsors must meet Corps maintenance standards. These standards, including limits to vegetation on levees, are meant to ensure that levees are properly maintained to reduce flood risk to those who live and work behind them. While national standards limit vegetation on levees, the Corps allows for variances to vegetation standards under a limited range of conditions. The process by which a variance may be requested is under review by the Corps at this time.

A multi-agency team, led by the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, held a levee vegetation information session July 12 to provide an update to stakeholders and present a draft assessment tool created by a levee vegetation working group. Representatives from federal agencies, congressional staffers, tribes, state agencies, counties, cities, diking districts and American Rivers all participated.

The team provided background, updates and a run-through of a matrix tool designed to assist levee owners in assessing their levee conditions and limitations. Multiple agencies presented, including the Corps, Puget Sound Partnership and King County.

Federal Executive Board facilitators asked participants to



Dennis Fischer, Holly Coccoli and Evan Lewis discuss levee vegetation on a levee in Kent. (Shane Wallenda Photo)

submit questions on note cards that the facilitators and multi-agency team could split into categories (eligibility, matrix, science/data/resources, misc.). Identified subject matter experts answered the questions.

"The meeting was good and the information was useful. How to affordably deliver fish habitat and protection of life and property is still a question mark," wrote Gary Jones from the Skagit Valley.

The session concluded with next steps, both for the working group and stakeholders. Attendees were invited to provide feedback immediately on a "feedback" form. In general, the feedback was positive; attendees appreciated the update and addressing the levee vegetation issue.

"Thank you for an excellent, informative day," wrote Marlla Mhoun, Covington City Council, Co-Chair Watershed Resources Inventory Area 9 forum. "I am always impressed by the results when stakeholders sit down together with the common goal of solving a problem."

The working group reviewed comments at its July 21 meeting and reformulated the team's scope and schedule to reflect changes in release dates for anticipated headquarters products.

While the working group continues to develop products and the national process is under review, the Seattle District will continue to inspect levees using an existing Seattle District variance. Levees meeting the current variance standards, which require levees to be accessible and inspectable, will continue to be eligible for the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program.

"Public safety is paramount, and we believe that levee safety standards can be achieved while providing for natural resources needs," said Col. Anthony Wright, Seattle District, Army Corps of Engineers Commander.



Brig. Gen. John McMahon addresses participants at the levee information meeting July 12. (Scott Lawrence Photo)

Seattle District battles weeks of spring

By **Patricia Graesser**
Public Affairs Office

Beginning May 12 and continuing through late June the Seattle District had flood teams out in seven basins in western Montana, northern Idaho and central Washington, and the Corps' Emergency Operations Center was in 24-hour operation as some rivers remained above flood stage for weeks.

The teams were active for nearly 50 days all over the northwest. "We've never had a flood fight this long," said Cathie Desjardin with the Seattle District Emergency Management Branch.

"Communities asked for technical assistance before they started work, and when they needed direct assistance, we were there ready to assist."

In Shoshone County a team placed a temporary berm at the Silver Hills Middle School in Osburn, Idaho, built a temporary flood control berm at Beaver Creek to protect homes and infrastructure, and installed a temporary levee in the Riverview community to prevent overbank flooding and reduce damages to the community.

The Kootenai River flood team assisted Boundary County with fortifying a portion of levee on the Bonners Ferry Levee system. Libby Dam held back a huge snow melt, keeping the downstream community of Bonners Ferry right below flood stage throughout the spring. The dam even used the sluice gates for the first time since the dam was completed to quickly reduce the reservoir height before the bulk of the major snowmelt hit Lake Kootenai.

The Coeur d'Alene River flood team assisted Shoshone County in shoring up a levee at Eagle Creek and provided Kootenai County with technical assistance at Rose Lake.

The St. Joe River flood team provided technical assistance to Benewah County and the St. Joe Diking Districts.

Elsewhere in northern Idaho, inflows into Lake Pend Oreille went above 124,000 cubic feet per second, and Albeni Falls Dam went into free flow operation, releasing 117,000 cfs - more than 17,000 cfs above flood stage downstream at Newport, Wash. The lake elevation exceeded 2,064 feet above sea level - half

a foot above flood stage on the lake. Fortunately, the snow melted off more slowly than usual, and dire predictions of record flooding were not borne out.

The Pend Oreille basin team assisted Pend Oreille County with emergency work on a 980-foot section of the River Road Levee in Cusick, Wash., and on a segment at Dufort Road upstream of Albeni Falls Dam in Idaho. The team completed work to protect the Johnson Creek Levee, strengthened the Lightning Creek levee and provided sandbags and sandbag training there.

In the nearby Clark Fork basin, the Corps has closed a breach in a levee in Sanders County in Plains, Mont.

In Washington, the Okanogan flood team built a protective berm along Salmon Creek to protect the town of Conco-

"There was no way to predict ahead of time how long it would go."

-Cathie Desjardin

nully and completed repairs to a 100-foot section of the Okanogan City levee in Okanogan, and a 1,800-foot segment of the Twisp levee.

"The reinforcement and armoring of the levee on the Methow River north of Twisp ensured that no homes were flooded," wrote Okanogan Emergency Manager Scott Miller. "Constructing the berms in the Town of Conconully was a tremendous improvement to the North Fork Salmon Creek drainage. The breaches on the levee in the City of Okanogan and the debris jam on Oak Street were both projects that your team tackled in a very professional manner."

The Yakima/Naches River flood team was busy throughout the basin assisting Yakima County. On the Naches River, the team placed armor on the Rock Creek levee, and further downstream near Nile Levee and the Town of Naches Levee, the Corps assisted the County providing temporary measures to prevent levee overtopping and failure. On the Yakima River, high flows overtopped the City of Yakima Wastewater Treatment Plant Levee, and the Corps responded by placing armor on

that levee. The Corps placed armor on the Yakima Federal Levee and reduced flood damages to the community well.

In all, the Corps deployed more than 50 employees, staffed the Emergency Operations Center for more than 1,000 hours straight, distributed more than one million sandbags in western Montana, central Washington and northern Idaho, and provided pumps to two local communities. Getting supplies replenished quickly was a big effort.

"The biggest challenge was finding people to be able to flood fight and work in the office. With a 24-hour effort, seven days a week for that long, it was difficult," said Desjardin. "There was no way to predict ahead of time how long it would go, either. Then to complicate things, the Midwest flooding began at the same time."

With record flooding in the Midwest, even if the district had called for reinforcements, there is doubt that they would have been available. District staff stepped up with people going out and staying out, traveling from one basin to the next as the waters moved downstream.

"Everyone out there and back in the office is a volunteer. We need to recognize them and show our appreciation for what they do," said Desjardin.



ing flooding across the Northwest



Along bottom from left: Elizabeth McCasland surveys flooding near the Nile River in the Yakima River basin (*Seth Klein Photo*); Bob Kaiser, Brian Stenehjem and Glen Terui take a breather from work in the Yakima River basin (*Charles Ifft Photo*). Above: Okanogan flood fighters prepare to begin erosion protection work in the city of Okanogan (from left): Shawn Davission, Okanogan Director of Public works, Gordon Hennigs, Okanogan Fire Chief, and Jeff Tribbett, Corps flood team member (*Charles Ifft Photo*). Right: erosion at Eagle Creek in Shoshone County threatens utilities and infrastructure in the Coeur d'Alene basin (*Charles Ifft Photo*).



Army Corps places temporary dams at Cook Slough

Readies for in-stream weir repair, fish ladder upgrade

By **A. Scott Lawrence**

Public Affairs Office

Temporarily shutting down flows on a river to isolate a work area so construction and concrete work can take place is no easy task, but that's exactly what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is doing at the Cook Slough, the south channel of the Stillaguamish River, now through September when construction is scheduled to be complete.

Two temporary earthen dams are being erected to divert the river to its northern run and dewater the construction site so crews can repair an in-stream weir and install an upgraded fish ladder.

While the work site is dewatered for construction, the Corps is using three submersible pumps to maintain a 30 cubic feet per second minimum flow through the ecosystem, preserving water quality by pumping water around the area.

The first temporary dam is located just before the weir and the second is approximately 150 feet downstream. Before the second earthen dam is complete and dewatering can commence, crews will enter the water with a seine net to herd fish

out of the work area. Any fish remaining after the second dam isolates the work site will be rescued and transported back to the river.

The 74-year-old weir is designed to control flood waters and water distribution through the system. "It's a diversion weir that allows adequate summer flows in both the North and South stems," said David Cook, Stillaguamish River weir repair project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District.

Repairs to the weir include fixing portions of undermined concrete and replacing sheet piles which were damaged through normal wear and tear on the water control structure.

The upgraded fish ladder will be constructed from riprap and include a series of six resting pools, each about one foot higher than the next, making it easier for fish to pass over the weir during low flow conditions. It is also much larger than the concrete fish ladder it replaces, measuring 50 feet wide and 175 feet long.

"The design is intended to mimic a more natural waterscape that fish might encounter, as opposed to a concrete

structure that is not at all natural and didn't include resting pools," said Bob Donnelly, an environmental coordinator for the Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition to the earthen dams, diversion nets are in place downstream to direct fish toward the north channel and away from the work area. "It's like a traffic detour sign for fish, forcing them to go the other way," Cook said.

Since there will be only one channel instead of two, with more fish in a concentrated area, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife issued a Fishing Rule Change closing the area to fishing until work is complete and the earthen dams are removed. To read the complete Fishing Rule Change visit <http://1.usa.gov/pmwCYL>.

The Corps coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, WDFW, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service, Washington State Department of Ecology and the Stillaguamish Indian Tribe during the planning process.

The Cook Slough project costs approximately \$ 1.6 million, paid for by the Corps.



Corps representatives Lawrence Traaen, Joe Wright and Bob Donnelly discuss the project with Sarah Arney, a reporter with Stanwood/Camano News. (Scott Lawrence Photo)

Corps tackles levee repair projects

Summer is construction season in the Pacific Northwest and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is bustling with activity as it tackles numerous levee rehabilitation projects throughout the district's area of responsibility.

From mid-June through October, the Corps is completing work on 12 levee projects at a cost of approximately \$10 million. Work primarily is focused on restoring damaged levees to their pre-flood levels of protection and includes adding levee toe-rock, replacing riprap armor to riverward slopes and making levee slopes more gradual at several of the sites.

In addition, many of the projects include environmental features such as willow plantings and the addition of large woody debris to improve fish habitat, among other environmental and habitat improvements.

"This is an aggressive schedule because of in-water work windows and the number and scope of projects," said Lynn Wetzler, levee rehabilitation program manager for the Army Corps of Engineers,

Seattle District.

The Corps worked closely with a number of federal, state, tribal and local representatives during the planning process for this year's levee construction projects which include: The Skagit River levee system, Nisqually Park, Cashmere, Skookumchuck, Cedar River, Jeffries, Jensen and Oso.

Most of the projects are under cost-share agreements where the Corps and local sponsors split costs.



Travis Hightower and Rachel Mesko plant willows along the Cashmere Levee. (Corps Photo)



Brig. Gen. John R. McMahon thanks Ricky Rice for his construction oversight at Tom Moore Slough in Skagit District 3. (Scott Lawrence Photo)

Safety Corner - Back to school

As fall approaches, with children walking to and from school in the increasingly dark and wet mornings and evenings, it's time to focus on back-to-school safety. Below are some helpful tips from the Safety and Occupational Health Office regarding traveling to and from school.

1. Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and, if possible, with intersections that have crossing guards. Consider organizing a walking school bus, for guidance on how to do this go to:

<http://www.activateomaha.org/downloads/WalkingSchool-BusWEBbooket.pdf>

2. Walk the route with your child beforehand. Tell him or her to stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields and other places where there aren't many people around.

3. Teach your child never to talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children don't know well or don't trust.

4. Be sure your child walks to and from school with a sibling, friend, or neighbor.

5. Teach kids, whether walking, biking, or riding the bus to school, to obey all traffic signals, signs and traffic officers. Remind them to be extra careful in darkness and bad weather.

6. When driving kids, deliver and pick them up as close to the school as possible. Don't leave until they are in the schoolyard or building

7. If your child bikes to school, make sure he wears a

helmet that meets one of the safety standards (U.S. CPSC, Snell, ANSI, ASTM, or Canadian). Research indicates that a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent.

8. If your child rides a scooter to school, make sure she wears sturdy shoes, a helmet, kneepads and elbow pads. Children under age 12 should not ride motorized scooters, according to recent recommendations from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

9. Teach children to arrive at the bus stop early, stay out of the street, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street, watch for cars and avoid the driver's blind spot.

10. Remind your children to stay seated at all times and keep their heads and arms inside the bus while riding. When exiting the bus, children should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls and cross the street at least 10 feet (or 10 giant steps) in front of the bus.

11. Tell your child not to bend down in front of the bus to tie shoes or pick up objects, as the driver may not see him before starting to move.

12. Be sure that your child knows his or her home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult and how to call 911 for emergencies.



Barracks ready to serve

By Patricia Graesser
Public Affairs Office

With a decade of overseas contingency operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, the Army has made an investment to care and support our wounded, ill and injured Soldiers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in a new way.

On Aug. 15, Joint Base Lewis-McChord officially opened its new \$52 million Warriors in Transition Barracks. Warriors in Transition units provide personal support to wounded Soldiers who require at least six months of rehabilitative care and complex medical management.

The barracks are part of a new complex that will also include a headquarters building and Soldier Family Assistance Center (currently under design). "We use an integrated approach to ensure that each Soldier and their family receive individualized care through their transition back to regular duty or to a civilian life."

The Seattle District and JBLM team took the barracks from groundbreaking last May to grand opening only 15 months later with construction by Mortenson Construction and design by TranSystems.

"This contract was fast-tracked to execute it quickly," explained Northwest Resident Engineer Tim Wood. "As a design-build contract, the contractor

broke up the design portion into chronologically ordered pieces, so portions of design could be approved and start construction early. For this project, package A of the design was site work, package B was structural and package C was remaining balance of the design. We began construction on package A design before packages B or C were completed."

The contractor also used construction methods that allowed for quicker execution. "The structure uses very little structural steel and is almost entirely supported on load-bearing metal stud walls," said Wood. "The building went up a floor at time, allowing mechanical, electrical and plumbing work to begin on lower floors as upper floors were being built. The wood-truss roof structure was built in sections on the ground while the building was under construction. It was lifted into place once the fourth floor was complete to further expedite the construction."

The 245,820-square-foot barracks is within easy walking distance to Madigan Army Medical Center and features 204 two-bedroom apartments, making a total of 408 bedrooms, with 42 units accessible for service members who have a disability.



Warrior in Transition Barracks (Patricia Graesser photo)

All customer service sections are on the first floor of the headquarters building, creating a one-stop shop. The complex includes on-site recreation facilities, covered picnic areas and gas outdoor grills.

"I'm delighted to see how well the construction has turned out," said U.S. Representative Norm Dicks.

Concerns raised from previous WIT construction projects were addressed by this team. This project used steel stud framing, and mold, moisture and abuse-resistant paperless 5/8 inch wall board, according to quality assurance representative Michael Wevodau.

The team also changed the grab bars in the restrooms to a heavy duty type due to reported problems in other facilities, according to project manager Fred Brown.

"This facility will provide crucial support to our nation's wounded heroes,"

Welcome to the district family



Jonathan Murphy
Engineering Tech
Operations



Abigail Pickard
Civil Engineer
Project Management-
Military Branch



Zachary Wilson
Biological Science Tech
Project Management



Vyacheslav Govorushkin
Engineering Tech
Emergency Management



Gerd Padilla
Electrical Engineer
Design Branch



Gabrielle Little
Admin. Support Clerk
Contracting



Dorothea Reinert
Support Assistant
Regulatory



Shilong Zhao
Civil Engineer
Engineering Division



Yolanda Melkchert
Architect
Project Management



Michael Harris
Accounting Officer
Resource Management



Marco Marolla
Accounting Aid
Operations



Corey Newton
Engineering Technician
Construction Division

Around the district

Congratulations

Congratulations to the staff at Mud Mountain Dam (MMD). In July, MMD was voted #1 "Best Family Destination" in the "Best of" competition of the local Courier Herald newspaper.

Congratulations, Jonathan Norquist who has passed his civil engineer professional registration exam.

Jim Byrne successfully passed the Leadership in Energy Design (LEED) Green Associate exam in May.

Congratulations to Taesan Hose and Kent Walker, both passed the Washington State Professional Engineer exam in April.

Brent Williams was selected as the Federal Columbia River Power System Hydropower Excellence Mechanic of the Year.

Out and About

The Aberdeen Survey crew; on board the Shoalhunter; returned from work in Alaska in mid-September. The crew had started survey work in July.

Mandy Michalsen attended the Battelle Bioremediation and Sustainable Environmental Technologies Conference in Reno, Nevada, where she presented results of in situ push-pull tests for determination of hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX) and Trinitrotoluene (TNT) bioremediation rate coefficients in Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) groundwater. Resulting rate coefficients were input to a groundwater model, which was used to evaluate benefit of bioremediation technology for optimizing the existing UMCD pump and treat remedy. Seattle District will complete the upcoming remedy optimization design and will play a key role in implementation over the next five years.

Steve Hutsell recently gave multiple presentations. Hutsell presented on 'BIM Contract Language and the PxP Template' at the Building Information Modeling for Project Managers Prospect Class in Huntsville, Alabama and also, gave presentations on the 'USACE BIM Roadmap' and the 'Geospatial Nexus' to the CM515 Innovative Project Management Concepts class at the Department of Construction Management, College of Built Environments, University of Washington.



James Bleu

This summer, Seattle District team member, Amanda Ogden, began her first season performing with the Highline Community Symphonic Band. The band, played at the Hiram M. Chittenden

Locks in June; as part of the 22nd Annual Free Summer Concerts and Events at the Locks.



Ronald Schroeder



Vincent Daniels



Kevin Hughes

Ogden, isn't the only Seattle District team member to have performed at the Locks this past year, ACE-IT's NWS Output Device Technician, Tim Spiro played with Patria Band Labor Day weekend.

Moving Forward

James Dexter and Ken Hiratsuka; both deployed this summer to Kabul, Afghanistan, Deployed from Seattle District in August were, Mamie Brouwer and Chris Schreiber.

July 4th saw Chief Joseph Dam's James Bleau deployed. The following week, Eddie Pena deployed to Kabul. Also, in July, Ronald (Ron) Schroeder and Vince Daniels deployed to Kabul. In June; Kevin Hughes deployed to Kabul and Bill Graney deployed to Kandahar. Bob Blaesing (Activated Reservist) deployed on the last day of June to Iraq. James Jones, Rodger Johns and Richard McCullough recently redeployed.

Giving Support

The following employees deployed this past June and July to assist in USACE's flood fight efforts and/or assist with the Joplin Tornado recovery: Susan Newby, William Beckett, Shawn Patterson and Sarasha Schmeets. Also, deployed were, Catherine Desjardin, Brian Stenehjelm, Michael Likavec, and Kelley Brown.



Destruction left behind after the spring tornado in Joplin, Missouri. (Susan Newby Photo)

Moving On

Tim Rose left Seattle District in August.

Earlier in the summer, Anton Klein transferred to Europe District, while Faye Kent transferred to the New England District.

In the summer, Public Affairs Office bid farewell to both Andrea Takash and Casondra Brewster.

Program Manager, Matt Allen left Seattle District in July. Allen had worked at the district seven years.

June saw the exit of Gavin Cochran and Stefan Myers.

After 24 years at the Chief Joseph Dam Project Office, Operations Project Manager, Mark Jenson, transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as the new power manager at Grand Coulee Dam. Jenson remarked that the highlight of his career, was, 'all the great people [he] got to work with'.

News from "the Road"

Two veterans, Doug Adams (Cyclist) and his wife Deb Lewis (CEO-Chief Everything Officer [and former District Commander of the Seattle District]), ...embarked in October 2010 on a year-long cycling tour of the United States to educate and inspire Americans. The tour known as the Duty, Honor, America tour, the purpose is to recognize and commemorate the sacrifice and selfless service of the American GI and their families, past and present, while exploring with engaged organizations and individuals better ways to provide support.



Debra Lewis and Doug Adams (Photo courtesy of Debra Lewis)

Retired

July 30 was the retirement date for John Skibby of Chief Joseph Dam while earlier in July, Oliver R. (Smitty) Smith retired; Smith also hailed from Chief Joseph Dam.

In Memorial

Retiree, George Lundstrom died May 17. Retiree, Terence Baxter; former employee in Construction Division; died March 15. Baxter worked out of the Kellogg, Idaho office and retired in 2004.

— Compiled by Beth Townsell

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please send items for Around The District to Elizabeth Townsell, Public Affairs Office Editorial Assistant. Information as well as photos may be sent to: elizabeth.a.townsell@usace.army.mil

Public Affairs Office
Seattle District (CENWS-PA)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4735 East Marginal Way South
Seattle, WA 98134-2392



The 1st Corps Honor Guard from Joint Base Lewis McChord presents the colors as Seattle District employee Dave Spicer sings the National Anthem. Standing at attention on stage are (from left to right): Col. Anthony Wright, outgoing District Commander, Brig. Gen. John McMahon Northwestern Division Commander, Col. Bruce Estok Seattle District Commander, and Olton Swanson Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management.