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Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT



**Getting 'schooled' in
Seattle, Pages 6 - 7**

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Vol. XX

No. 4

Seattle welcomes new leader, family

New Seattle District Engineer Col. Anthony Wright says while he is in command here you can expect him to ask a lot of questions and retain his sense of humor.

He opened his July 28 town hall meeting with district employees without PowerPoint slides, which he says he will be using only sparingly during his command. Answering many questions ranging from his temperament indicator (ISTJ) to relocation (he'll need more information to answer specifics), he offered employees insight into the direction he will be leading the district.

He talked about three key goals in his vision for the Seattle District:

Provide service to the nation- including the members of the nation that may not have an advocate.

Demonstrate integrity — integrity takes years to build up and can be lost in seconds. Be the standard bearers and standard setters for your profession — raise the bar, carry the flag. One of his plans is to get out to the operating projects and field offices as quickly as possible. "I don't like meetings. I don't like sitting at a desk," he said. He prefers walking around and talking with people.

In his 27 years of service, he has not had civil works experience — that's why all the questions. He has had the opportunity to sit in a number of district and division meetings prior to taking command, so he has already gotten an idea of the district mission, priorities, opportunities and challenges.

"I don't intend to make many changes," he said, indicating pleasure with how he sees things going already in the district.



Jim, 11, and Catherine, 10, Wright sing the National Anthem during their father's change of command ceremony. (Dick Devlin photos)



Cover: Naval Academy Midshipman (left) Sean Rocha works together with U.S. Military Academy (West Point) Senior Cadet Jered Stokes to perform some quality assurance checks on a levee rehab project in Carnation, Wash. The Cadets spent their summer leave in Seattle with the Advance Individual Academic Development program. (Casandra Brewster Photo)



Col. Tony Wright assumed command of the Seattle District, July 24.

Raised and educated in Oregon, Wright is an ROTC graduate of the Oregon Institute of Technology. Wright worked outside of the military for a couple of years before becoming an active duty Soldier.

He entered active duty in 1985 and has served in a variety of command and staff positions in the continental United States and overseas. He has been stationed in Germany, California, Fort Lewis, and he has deployed to the Balkans and three times to Iraq.

Before arriving in Seattle, he earned a master's degree in National Security Studies in June from the National War College in Washington, DC.

A recent widower, Wright is raising his two children, Jim and Catherine, who will be attending Seattle public schools in the fall. — Patricia Graesser



This Flagship is dedicated to Dave Heiman, Park Ranger at Albeni Falls Dam. Along with his responsibilities for recreation management, he leads and mentors summers student employees and other staff. His positive, upbeat, and direct style has earned him the respect of his fellow workers and is recognized for his excellent customer relations skills.

Flagship

**Col. Anthony Wright, Commander
Patricia Graesser, Chief, Public Affairs
Casandra Brewster, Editor
Nola Leyde, Contributor
Dick Devlin, Contributor
Elizabeth Townsell, Contributor**

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District takes extra measures to save salmon

SEATTLE – Lake Washington Ship Canal’s Diffuser Well Project took another step forward in early June with the successful installation of a locally designed and built “Adult Salmon Exclusion Structure” or, ASES.

The most recent fish passage improvement at the locks to benefit returning adults traversing the site is the Diffuser Well Project. Its goal is to prevent salmon from becoming entrained, or trapped, in the Chittenden Locks’ salt water drain (SWD) system.

“Once in the well, they have to be removed by hand, possibly causing an emergency shut-down of the fish ladder during migration season,” notes Rebecca Jahns, project manager for the ASES.

The entrance to the SWD is near the large lock guide wall, located at the bottom of the navigation channel and is operated to continuously provide water to the fish ladder and to intermittently provide salinity control by releasing water through the SWD outlet over the spillway.

Key to the project is the ASES a 50-foot long, 18-ton, free-standing structure, that was emplaced in front of the SWD intake blocking adult access to the diffuser well. Placement of this structure is an interim solution and part of the more comprehensive Diffuser Well Project, which will prevent salmon access to the locks’ salt water return system and improve the vi-

ability of the various salmon runs (including Endanger Species Act-listed species like the Chinook). The salmon use the fish ladder while returning upstream to their spawning grounds.

Over the years, studies have shown that young salmon passing through the Locks from Lake Washington to Puget Sound have a difficult journey. Some salmon get pulled into the filling tunnels for the large locks, where some are injured or killed. Other salmon have a difficult time getting over the spillway near the fish ladder.

Since 2004 some salmon returning through the locks, including the threatened Chinook, have become trapped, or entrained, in the system responsible for returning salt water to the sound side of the dam. The mortality rate of passing salmon has been increasing, though the reason for it is unknown, according to Jahns.

The Diffuser Well Project was accelerated by an incident in August 2007 in which 60 of an estimated 120 adult Chinook salmon entrained in the diffuser well were found dead or badly injured.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Biological Opinion issued in August 2007 requires that the Corps prevent the salmon from entering the diffuser well or provide a route to allow salmon to escape if they are entrained.

See ‘Well,’ continued on Page 9



The marine crane operator working on installing the Adult Salmon Exclusion Structure, lowers the specially designed fish-passage improvement at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks. (Dick Devlin Photo)

Military construction branch design team wins big

“This project serves as an outstanding interpretation of standard barracks criteria while respecting the natural environment. The design solution is simple, but allows for a solid sense of place. It acknowledges the significance of providing quality housing for Soldiers.”

With that verdict from the selection jury, Seattle District’s Military Construction Branch design team recently won the USACE Honor Award and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Design Team of the Year Award for innovative design of a 300-Soldier barracks as part of Fort Lewis’ Whole Barracks Renewal efforts.

The Jackson Avenue in-house design team achieved many firsts during production of the project’s design and specifications. The team used three-dimensional Building Information Modeling (BIM) and developed the first Seattle District design of a Type V (wood frame) barracks that met anti-terrorist and force protection criteria.

“BIM is the wave of the future,” according to J.D. Brigance, project manager, asked to comment on the technology.

“We were the first team in the Corps to use it for military construction. The learning curve was steep at first, but what it allows makes it worth it. The system allows you to walk your customer through the completed structure before you begin construction.”

Additionally, the construction’s duration, at 540 days, also was a first for the \$50-million military construction project while the team also had to deal with MILCON Transformation demands that were unknown prior to the project.

The team also partnered with designers from a local architectural and engineering firm, Corps’ engineers from Walla Walla and Far East districts and reviewers from Kansas City District and the Fort Lewis Directorate of Public Works. Teaming was a constant theme of the project and was conducted on a large scale throughout the process.

Enhancing the quality of life for Soldiers was the objective for the Jackson Avenue Barracks renewal project at Fort Lewis. The challenge lay in maximizing the privacy, security and comfort



The completed Jackson Avenue Whole Barracks Renewal project shown above was honored as an innovative design winner this year. One of the selection highlights was because the project “acknowledges the significance of providing quality housing for Soldiers.” (Dick Devlin Photo)

of the living spaces, while maintaining the construction economy and ease of maintenance which has been typical traditional of on-post housing.

The in-house design team said choosing a garden apartment configuration allowed them to capture living space from areas that would ordinarily be used for building circulation, thereby creating living conditions similar to private, off-post apartments. It was the first Northwest Contemporary style building at Fort Lewis, more known for Neo-Georgian concrete and steel structures. Located in a wooded site with an informal, perimeter street grid system, the barracks are built on a human scale to create a campus-like feel among the trees.

Rather than housing all Soldiers in a single building, the barracks were divided into four buildings, each served by multiple stairwells, so a maximum of only 24 Soldiers need to share any common stairwell. Seattle District’s architect, Bruce Hale, was selected as the Corps’ architect of the year as a result of his work on this project.

The team was able also to design the Jackson project to achieve a Silver Award under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) construction sustainability rating program, one of the few in the Army.

“The in-house design team kept our sustainability goals in mind throughout the design process and worked at every stage to maximize the sustainable aspects of the project, as well as the cost-effectiveness of the products and systems,” said Anne-Marie Moellenberndt, mechanical design engineer and one of the team’s LEED-accredited professionals. — Dick Devlin

Success at last!

Workforce Recruitment Program finally sees momentum in Seattle

Five years is a long time to see a project through. In the world of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, there's plenty of history where projects can take someone an entire career to complete.

But each year that efforts weren't rewarded with success was wasted opportunity, according to the project development team that made getting the district actively participating in the Work Force Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities (WRP) a top priority.

The program is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal sector employers nationwide with highly motivated postsecondary students and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to prove their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Labor (ODEP) and the Department of Defense with the participation of about 20 other federal agencies, the WRP has provided employment opportunities for more than 4,000 students since 1995.

The trick was to get the Seattle District successfully engrained into this program.

"The process to get involved (in the WRP), can be, initially, really complicated," said Steve Horne, equal employment opportunity specialist. "There are a few very short deadlines with multi-level approvals necessary — some as little as 10 days — and time-intensive procedures to overcome."

Also, the students that qualify can be snapped up by other agencies, such as NASA, that are already well established in the program or just are able to move faster than Department of the Army.

"There is a huge competition for these candidates," Horne said.

This year the district's WRP project development team pulled out the heavy artillery to get the mission accomplished. Judy Smith, chief, EEO, said that Patricia Baucchio joined the team as a huge advocate and champion of the program and making it happen.

Baucchio, who also works with the EEO staff as a Special Emphasis Program Coordinator and the Individuals with Disabilities Employment Program, said she joined the team's efforts because she could identify and felt passionate that the program was important.

"I joined the workforce of the Corps under a similar program back in 1981," Baucchio said. "I had a technical degree and have a sense of what it takes to get exposure into such career fields."

Twenty-one years later, she said she wanted very much to help 'pay it forward,' as it were and get the district involved in this program.

"What she's not telling you," said Horne, "is that she made 54 phone calls in less than three days."

Baucchio combed through a list of almost 800 candidates to find folks who could potentially fill potential positions with the district.

Smith said that Baucchio also did a lot of educating about the WRP to the district staff.

"Part of the hurdles we faced is lack of knowledge about the program throughout the district, especially with those in hiring positions," Horne said.

"Without the supervisors' follow-up, nothing can get done," Baucchio said.

"But how could we not go the extra mile?" Baucchio said. "Students you hire do not count against your manning documents or your budget. The salary comes out of WRP resources."

"That's what makes the WRP such a great deal for students and managers," Horne said.

But for Katrina Carter, a WRP hire working in the EEO, this was more than a deal. In fact it was, as she said, her first real job. She said the toughest part of her job here was deciphering and balancing her social security insurance benefits.

"I'm liking this very much," Carter said, whose background in civil rights studies and activities helped make her resume stand out to the PDT.

For the other WRP hires, Neal Chalmers and Jonathon Jones, their summer with the Seattle District was a huge resume builder.

Chalmers was placed in Real Estate, since on top of his business degree he has



Katrina Carter gets ready for her morning routine in the Equal Opportunity Office. Through the Work Force Recruitment Program, Carter is enjoying her first 'real' job, she said. (Casondra Brewster Photo)

his real estate license. He will spend his 14 weeks with the district learning all he can about government real estate regulations.

"This has been a great opportunity," Chalmers said. "I never knew there was so much the Army Corps of Engineers had to do with real estate; it's really different than what most people think."

For Navy veteran Jones, his summer position with contracting was allowing him to transition from a full-time telework position into working in a traditional office environment.

"I've learned a lot here," Jones said. "It's been a real education, and I got to know about the Corps — there are some great opportunities here." He plans to begin the process toward law school in the fall.

By the end of September Carter, Chalmers and Jones will be moving on to other things. But the work for Baucchio, Horne and Smith will start up again.

Horne said that the feedback from supervisors has been excellent and they want to be considered in the WRP process for next year.

"If any section has a special project or needs someone with specialized skills, now is the time to be thinking about it for a summer hire," Baucchio said.

Horne said they are looking to request eight hires, with the knowledge that they might only get three.

"Our goal is to make this program stronger and stronger each year," he said.

— Casondra Brewster

Manpower crunch turns

The Seattle District has an engineer shortage. It has no less than 50 positions available, due in part to the largest work load it has seen in modern times.

So, faced with many small civil works projects, which had tight construction timeframe windows to be completed, along with continued pressing military projects, the district deputy commander, Lt. Col. Matt Cadicamo, thought back to a previous assignment. That thought sparked an idea, which could help quickly augment the district's ranks with competent engineers-in-training, in a hurry, and provide some really great training and lasting outreach for the district.

When assigned to U.S. Army South, the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point called and wanted opportunities for their engineer students to train with the engineers. In that particular case a team of cadets worked to design a base camp.

"So, why not apply similar logic here?" Cadicamo said.

After discussions with Maj. Karl Jansen, the district created an Advanced Individual Academic Development program (AIAD) to coincide with USMA's summer training schedule.

"We aimed to create another opportunity for future engineer officers to become familiar with the Corps beyond the Headquarters-sponsored Cadet-District Engineer program (CDEP)," Jansen said. "We felt this would really compliment that higher-level program and introduce the civil works portion as well."

So Cadicamo and Jansen went to work back in October 2007 to get the word out. They sent out electronic fliers, made phone calls and "jumped through the proverbial hoops," according to Cadicamo. In the end, "the stars aligned" and 10 West Point Cadets and one Naval Academy Midshipman spent their annual leave time, four weeks, to learn about USACE and the Seattle District.

Four of the Cadets rotated through the Fort Lewis Resident Office and augmented the quality assurance effort overseeing the contract construction of barracks and other facilities. The remaining seven participants were assigned to

the district's emergency management branch and served as site superintendents for several levee rehabilitation projects located along the Snoqualmie River. In addition to these duties, all participants had the opportunity to tour several of the district's operating projects including the Lake Washington Ship Canal and Libby, Chief Joseph, Howard Hanson and Mud Mountain dams.

The Snoqualmie River levee rehabilitation projects were executed in response to damage sustained from the flooding of November 2006 under the Public Law 84-99 authority. Seattle District exercised the Rental Equipment Program to conduct the repair. This program utilizes a USACE employee as a site superintendent to execute the construction to design specifications with the aid of rental equipment and operators. The service academy participants were paired up and assigned to a project. After classroom and a couple days of on-the-job training, the cadets took over responsibility of the project sites and completed the work. Aside from constructing the project, other deliverables included developing a site-specific accident prevention plan utilizing the Army's Composite Risk Management process and producing a final "as-built" technical drawing to serve as the historical record of construction.

Senior Cadet Jered Stokes, originally from Dickson, Tenn., is a civil engineering major. His participation in AIAD allowed him to come west of the Rocky Mountains for the first time in his life.

Stokes along with the Naval Cadet, Sean Rocha, was in charge of a levee rehab project near Carnation, Wash.

"It taught me that the physical construction of a project is the easiest phase of the mission," Stokes said. "I would have never guessed that the most difficult would be getting the permissions and funding."

"All of the cadets proved to be a wise investment for our district," Jansen said. "Besides the labor savings in having a cadet vs. a district employee on site full time, the cadets brought a fresh perspec-



Maj. Karl Jansen, Advanced Individual Academic Development program participant, and King County's Tom Bean the recent success and completion of the levee rehab on the Snoqualmie River near Carnation. The military cadets work on the project. (Casandra B...

tive to the projects and fostered a positive environment for the team to get the job done. They caught on quickly and applied their leadership skills to adapt to and accomplish an unfamiliar mission."

Rocha, a Corpus Christi, Texas, native, signed on to take a look at "the other side of engineering." He is a mechanical engineering major that hopes to specialize in nuclear engineering soon. "This was a great experience for me to see how others do QA (quality assurance). It was pretty tough here, and it'll just get tougher in nuclear engineering."

The cadets also got to interface with the public and media while doing their work.

Both Rocha and Senior Army Cadet, Samantha Turner, had to clear up misunderstandings with landowners adjacent to the project sites.

"I've learned you need to be patient with the process of a project and pass along that patience to the public and stakeholders," Rocha said. "It's not too hard to cool off folks who have gotten upset, because there's some misunderstanding. Sometimes they just needed to

into learning opportunity



Development program mentor, discusses with completion by the cadet project managers with on, Wash. Bean said he was very impressed with (Brewster Photos)

talk to a real person and discuss things. Being able to show them the network of professionals was a great tool."

Lessons of going with the flow, much like the water projects half the cadets worked on, were taught as well.

"This has really taught me how we (the Corps) need to be flexible," Turner said. "We've really come from an environment (West Point) where there is an SOP (standard operating procedure) document for everything we do. So if you ask if there's an SOP for this particular levee project you're working on; the answer will probably be that there isn't. Each project has its own possible contingencies and red tape, as it were. The massive logistic coordination, as well, really surprised me."

Junior Cadet Soo-Ho Park added to Turner's comment on flexibility, "I was really surprised by how everything was planned; but, at the same time it's constantly fluid."

For some of the cadets the program got them even more excited about the entire facet of district operations; for some, they learned that

another path might be smarter for them.

"This was a real eye opener," said Kees Punter, a senior at West Point. "I think I'm more of a combat engineer type." When asked if he'd recommend the program to other cadets, he was very positive. "I think this was a very valuable learning experience. I've already told others that if it opens up they should take the chance. This was an excellent program."

Cadicamo said the feedback from the others has been just as beneficial. "They learned as much as they executed," he said. "The cadets quickly assumed the tasks and went beyond the standards. One of our goals was to leave a positive impression about our district. I think we accomplished that mission."

Jansen said they plan to offer this opportunity to cadets from all the service academies next year as well as those from ROTC programs. His biggest challenge will be to make sure that a project comes alive at the same time as the cadets have their summer leave.

Cadicamo said that perhaps the district could even open it up to those outside of engineering studies.

"I know the Air Force Academy has environmental scientists, perhaps we could get some cadets to help out our biologists and other environmental resource teams."

Cadicamo stressed that this program is voluntary for the military academy students. "We don't want any hostages; they come to learn, to work, to execute and absorb all they can."

But there was one lesson that all the cadets seemed to say hadn't changed from their military training.

"You still have to rely on other people," Rocha said, his sentiments echoed by the others. "You have to work as a team to get anything completed." — *Casondra Brewster*



ABOVE: Senior West Point Cadet Jered Stokes performs quality assurance survey measurements during a levee rehab project in Carnation, Wash., while heavy-equipment operator, Ron Rice, awaits instructions. **BELOW:** Military academy students were afforded the opportunity to practice their public affairs skills during their time in Seattle. Senior Cadet Samantha Turner speaks to a property owner in North Bend, Wash., regarding the progress of a levee rehab project off the Snoqualmie River.



Town hall city: District hosts chief and new commander



ABOVE: Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, 52nd Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers visited Seattle District at Federal Center South in Seattle on May 29, 2008. This was the general's first visit to Seattle District since he became Chief of Engineers in May of 2007. While at the district, Van Antwerp held a standing-room-only town hall. The Chief shared his Corps-wide message of 'building the organization to last' and taking the organization 'from good to great.' He not only recommends Jim Collins' book, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap . . . and Others Don't*, but he also endorses a policy of SIS/SIW, 'Steal ideas shamelessly, share ideas willingly' and the purpose-driven life: 'not thinking less of yourself, thinking of yourself less.' (Dick Devlin Photo)

RIGHT: The new Seattle District Commander, Col. Anthony "Tony" Wright, opened his July 28 town hall meeting with district employees without PowerPoint slides, which he says he will be using only sparingly during his command. Answering many questions ranging from his temperament indicator (ISTJ) to relocation (he'll need more information to answer specifics), he offered employees insight into the direction he will be leading the district. (Casandra Brewster Photo)



WANTED: *Flagship Sharpshooters.* Out at one of our projects? Or doing an interesting construction or emergency operation event? We want your photos! Please contact the Flagship editor (casandra.brewster@us.army.mil) for more information and photo requirements. If you're a Sharpshooter, your images could be featured in an upcoming Flagship.

Well

Continued from Page 3

The fish ladder, completed in 1972, was designed to allow adult salmonids the ability to move from salt water to fresh water and continue their spawning migration. Six of the lower 11 ladder chambers have gratings on their bottoms where salt water from the SWD mixes with freshwater flowing down the fish ladder spillway near the fish ladder.

The resulting brackish water acts as an attractant for adult salmonids. Additionally, some of the fish ladder chambers have windows that allow the public to view the returnees as they travel through the ladder.

To improve salmon passage, the Corps of Engineers worked in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Muckleshoot Indian Nation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. All provided their expertise and technical support.

As a result of the ongoing studies, the Corps installed underwater strobe lights in 1999 and 2000 to startle fish away from the filling tunnels for the large lock. Tests have shown the lights reduce the numbers entrained when the locks are filled. Annually, lock workers remove barnacles from the filling tunnels, and follow-up tests have shown that barnacle removal reduces the number of fish damaged once in the tunnels. The Corps also has slowed the lock filling rate to reduce the number of fish pulled into the tunnels.

Another innovation at the Chittenden Locks are the four smolt passage flumes or “smolt slides” the Corps installs for the smolt out-migration season each year on the spillway side of the dam.

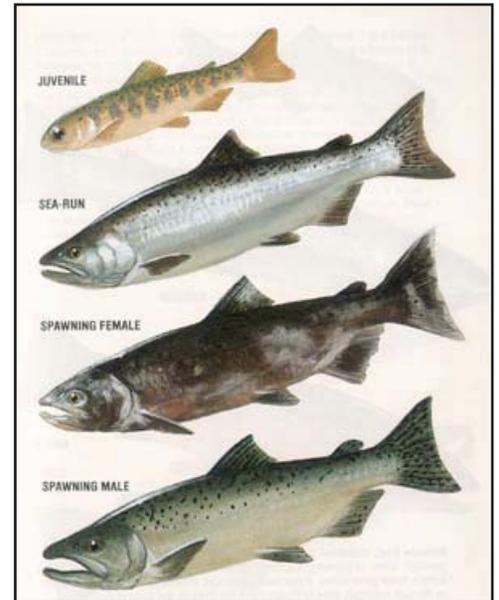
The slides provide a safe, water-efficient way for juvenile fish to get over the dam and into Puget Sound. The slides, designed by the Corps and built by the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, are based on a prototype smolt slide, which successfully passed as many as half a million smolts annually beginning in 1995.

Scientists, who have been monitoring fish passage at the locks, estimate that millions of fish travel safely through from mid-April to early August each year. In that same period, substantially less than one percent of the fish are pulled into the filling culverts and injured or killed.

In the interest of safety, a rare 12-hour closure of both the large and small locks at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Ballard, Wash., was put into effect for all maritime traffic.

The closure allowed construction crews and dive teams to install the ASES at the entrance to the salt water return system located on the floor of the ship canal, adjacent to the large lock wall at the locks’ east end.

After passing through the locks, a huge commercial lifting derrick took up its



position athwart the channel, assisted by a sea-going tug, physically blocking the locks. Soon after, divers went into the water to control the deceptively delicate-looking structure in its descent and attachment.

The Seattle District, which operates the locks, expected to have both locks back in normal service by evening of the same day after providing a 12-hour construction window. Expectations were met. The construction crews and dive teams put out maximum effort to complete the work as soon and as safely as possible — the locks began passing traffic just after 7 p.m. — Dick Devlin

Postcard

Continued from Page 12

for a room and off to unpack and sleep.

Processing the next day was fine. Meeting the new family I would be working with was very enjoyable.

The following day, was another story. Soon after I arrived at work, the intercom system blared, “LOCKDOWN LOCKDOWN seek shelter immediately!”

Everyone scrambled for their helmet and flight vest, and proceeded to the hallway. After about 10 minutes an all clear message came over the loudspeakers. We all took off the vest and helmet and went back to work.

I was always wondering how I would react to such a threat. Now, I knew and it wasn't pleasant. About two hours went by, and it happened again. I was a little more calm this time as I knew the procedures. After the all-clear call again and everyone

headed back to work. Later, during my break, I was outside and the warning siren goes off, yet again. But, I was without my vest and helmet, which meant I had to make a mad 20-yard dash to one of the bunkers. Just as I entered, I heard a small pop! sound. All around me in the bunker, people were packed in. My first thoughts were of how lucky I was.

Fear is a strange thing, being prepared for it lessens it greatly. I also have gathered more respect for the Soldiers that protect us here and at home. As I am a retired military, but never seen action. My experiences do not compare to our Soldiers that have been on the Iraq fighting lines. “Support our troops” has a new meaning to me.

We have had a couple more attacks. The one which happened when I was sleeping, didn't give me enough time to run to the bun-

ker. So, you roll out of bed, lay on the floor and put your flight vest over you.

On another night after having dinner and in my room, I heard shooting. It was on the street about 30 yards away. Despite the uncomfortableness, we are protected by large concrete barricade and a wall, which separates us and the street.

Other days are great, nice and warm, Friday is to be 108 degrees (Fahrenheit). But, working and living conditions are very nice. Food is excellent, and Iraq and (the American) people are extremely friendly and nice.

At this point in time I am on a 120-day tasker and more than likely ask for a total of one year. — Rodney R. Furby, GRD Finance, Baghdad, Iraq

Editor's Note: Furby is normally assigned to Resource Management.

Around the district

Kudos

This spring, **Marian Valentine** was selected as the new operations manager for Lake Washington Ship Canal. As noted by past district commander, Col. Michael McCormick, 'as a hydraulic engineer, (Valentine) brings a diverse background of technical expertise as well as a variety of leadership positions within both engineering and construction and operations to this position.'

Rustin Director has been selected as the new Environmental Stewardship Biologist in the Natural Resources Management Section.

Greg King, was selected and has accepted the permanent position of Puget Sound Survey Crew Party Chief.

Stacey Johnson, Office of Counsel, was chosen to participate in the USACE Centrally Funded University Long Term Training Program for Academic Year 2008/2009.

Congratulations to those receiving Level I Project Management Certifications this past spring: **Matthew Allen, Fred Brown, Patrick Cagney, Jim Clark, Alan Coburn, Noel Gilbrough, David Gustafson, Bernard Hargrave, Andy Maser, Laura Orr, Victor Ramos, Steven Saepoff, Gene Scott, Olton Swanson, Mona Thomason, Bridget Wanderer, Win Wang.**

Erik Lundstrom has received his Contracting Level III Certification.

On May 10th, **Lindsay Remfrey**, office support assistant, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Saint Martin's University (SMU), Lacey, Wash., with a bachelor of science in computer science. Remfrey had been taking night and weekend courses at SMU for three years. *Flagship* staff joins the rest of the district in offering congratulations to her.

Congratulations to **Stephen Jesse** and wife, Tori, who welcomed new son, Dawson Maddox on May 23. Young Dawson weighed 8 lbs and measured 19 1/2 inches. Congratulations to the Jesse family!

Kudos to **Tim Spiro** who performed at Seattle District's Hiram M. Chittenden Locks July 19. Spiro performs with the

musical group "Patria" a Country/Gospel group. Patria performed as part of Summer Concerts and Events at the locks.

Carolyn Jones was recently featured on Easter Seals Growing Years Child Development Centers' web page, which highlighted her service as a volunteer at Federal Center South's childcare center.

Reaching Out

Larry (Lawrence) Merkle gave a presentation at Northwestern Division, USACE to the Mekong River Commission on the International Joint Commission (IJC) and the IJC Boards of Control.

Appreciation and thanks go out to the volunteers who helped with the water safety booth at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks during SeaFair weekend. **Karen Morgan**, Project Management, and

Thomas "Rudy" Ruzicka,

Logistics Activity. The outreach was a huge success and response was energetic and positive to the event.

Returned

The Seattle District Public Affairs Office welcomes back **Andrea Takash**, public affairs specialist.

Les Soule recently returned to Seattle District as a rehired annuitant. Among the rehired/reemployed annuitants currently at Seattle District are: **Steven Babcock, Joseph Duncan, Kathleen Dunn** and **Lawrence Merkle.**

Retirements

Cindy Wikstrom, realty specialist, retired Aug. 2, after more than 33 years of federal service, which began in October 1974. Wikstrom noted the following as highlights of her career, 'Conveyance of West Barracks to City of Vancouver and conveyance of acreage to Bothell Fire District.' But she most remarked upon 'working with customers and COE personnel.'

David D. Wright, Fort Lewis Area Office, sought his independence on the eve of the 4th of July by retiring. Wright served 40 years with the federal government, including 4 years with the Air Force.

Moving Forward

Chris Borton, Real Estate, Iraq

Connie Burris, Resource Management, Iraq

Su-Chen Chen, Operations, Iraq

Avril Jones, Engineering, Iraq

Roger Kohls, Northwest Area Office, Iraq

Michael Peterson, Libby Dam, Afghanistan

Mark Roush, Small Business Office, Afghanistan

Chris Schreiber, Chief Joseph Dam, Iraq

Kirt Silva, Libby Dam, Afghanistan

Glen Tauscher, Albeni Falls Dam, Afghanistan

Linda Wright, Operations, Iraq



Avril Jones

Departures

Kinsley L. (Lee) Stratford, left Seattle District at the end of June for a position with Public Works at Fort Lewis.

Timothy Stott, Emergency Management, left for a position with the U.S. Coast Guard.

In Memory

Retiree, **Roger Crossen** of Seattle passed-away April 13. He retired from Seattle District's Lake Washington Ship Canal as chief of maintenance in 1982.

The Public Affairs Office received notice that retiree **Howard C. Fuller** is deceased. His biographical sketch states that he retired from Seattle District, Nov. 16, 1987, where he had served as the mail and records clerk in the mailroom for 20 years. He wrote, "I have always appreciated the lack of scandal that has been my career with the Corps."

The family of retiree **Thomas Shinn** caught-up with the *Flagship* staff to let us know that Mr. Shinn had passed away in 2004. — Compiled by Beth Townsell

Welcome to the district family



Camille Wilson
Project Management
Budget Analyst



Amanda Ogden
Project Management
Biologist



Benjamin Tsang
Project Management
Environ. Protection Spc.



Katherine Kelly
Project Management
Archeologist



Tracey Nakayama
Engineering
Structural Engineer



Michael Davis
Resource Management
Accountant



Dana Giffen
Engineering
Physical Science Technician



Jeffrey Halvorson
Engineering
Mechanical Engineer



Behailu Woldemariam
Engineering
Civil Engineer



Paula Feldmeier
Office of Counsel
Attorney



Terry Harrison
Project Management
Budget Analyst



Daniel Swenson
Engineering
Construction Control Rep.



Jeffery Mendenhall
Project Management
Economist



Sonya Ybarra
Project Management
Office Automation



Shelia Welsh
Resource Management
Customer Service Rep.



Angela Motts
Regulatory
Support Assistant



Sherry Ua
Contracting
Procurement Tech.



Kent Walker
Technical Services
Hydraulic Engineer



Mitchell Ho
Operations
Environ. Protection Spc.



David Doll
Technical Branch
Engineering Technician



Ted Wegrich
Emergency Management
Engineering Technician



Steven Babcock
Project Management
Community Planner



Neil Chalmers
Real Estate
Realty Specialist



Scott Avery
Northwest Area Office
Engineering Technician



Stephanie Smelson
Technical Branch
Office Automation Clerk



Ajay Miltner
Albeni Falls Dam
Student Ranger



Brittany Smith
Albeni Falls Dam
Student Ranger



David Gardner
Albeni Falls Dam
Student Engineer



Edwin Spegal
Albeni Falls Dam
Student Ranger



Erin Salesky
Albeni Falls Dam
Admin Assistant

Flagship is published bi-monthly. Let us know when you're retiring so we can feature you in our next Flagship. We also want to know about professional accomplishments, speaking engagements, wedding engagements, marriages, births and memorials. Guest features are welcome, or if you just like to write or take pictures, we want to hear from you. Please contact casondra.brewster@us.army.mil or 206-764-6958 for details on deadlines, photo requirements and article guidelines.

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

Postcards From the Front...



Everyone thinks of different things before heading over to support the United States in the fight for Freedom in Iraq. What is it really like?

The news tells you little on what to expect in Iraq; your counterparts tell you things about the working conditions, and your living arrangements, dining facilities, and what to take with you on your journey. They also tell you about having your flight vest and helmet for incoming rockets and mortars. This is all well and good.

What I didn't ask and wasn't told was about processing at TAC, the eight-hour lay over in Germany after an eight-hour flight from Dulles to Germany. From Germany you fly into Kuwait to pick up your flight vest and helmet and the wait to be manifested on an Army C130 pending any sand storms and or weather. Soldiers and civilians sitting on canvas seats facing East and West when the plane is pointed North. Elbow to Elbow with your new-found best friends (flight vest and helmet) with the luggage placed at the back of the plane on a large pallet. A 30-minute air taxi ride in the C130 before the plane lifts off the ground. You place your ear plugs in your ears to keep the engine noise out. After about one and a half hours the C130 starts to descend in a right turn fashion, then it finally hits the runway. One has to believe that is why they packet us in so tight, as we all just about bounced out of our seats. This time however, the taxiing C130 only took about five minutes to get to GRC off-loading area. When departing the plane we moved to an in-briefing area and hoped to be met by someone who would take us to GRD. I was lucky, because some of the (passengers) people on the plane were returning from R&R and knew others and the procedures. They found out that escort vehicles would pick us up in about five hours; that would take us to GRD. There connection took us to the temporary billeting office on GRC where we could wash up and get some much needed rest as we left TAC on Thursday morning and it is now Saturday afternoon, with the only sleep one



Rodney R. Furby

had was on the plane and airport. Little refreshing was done, so this was a long awaited break, after toting two 50-pound bags of clothes and uniforms, plus helmet and flight vest. A quick refreshing shower and a three-hour nap was just what was needed. After waking we gathered our things and hiked over to the pickup point in front of Engineers Contracting building. I placed my bags at the road side and walked in side to find Melinda and Sue, what a welcome site to see familiar faces. We chatted while I awaited an escort to arrive.

Once they arrived we were told to don our helmets and flight vest and what to do in the event the vehicle was attacked and to push a button to signal where we were. So, we entered the heavily armored SUV and began the road trip to GRD. It took about 20 minutes to get out of the GRC compound and once on the Iraqi roads we picked up speed greatly, as things began to zip by. The escorts were extremely professional and we felt secure. They stop for nothing! We arrived at the GRD in about 15 minutes safe and sound. Found my work area and all was good, they processed me

See 'Postcard,' continued on Page 8