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Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT



**Flood fighting teams
help keep the high
waters low** Pages 6-7

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Vol. XX

No. 1

Office move status: still planning



Lt. Col. Matthew P. Cadicamo

One of my priorities for this fiscal year is to research all the courses of action on where Seattle District would physically move operations, so that the Corporate Board can make an informed decision. Before my arrival this summer, the CB had eliminated the

option of renovating our current building 1201

at Federal Center South, which currently meets neither the seismic safety nor Defense Department security standards. That course of action (COA) would have involved too much turmoil in moving every employee to a temporary facility and then back again as well as too much money required to meet seismic retrofitting of the facility. That decision leaves us with three COAs: renovate Building 1202 behind us; build an entirely new facility on FCS property either on the east or west side of Highway 99; or lease an existing facility elsewhere. That said, where are we now?

Firstly, the CB has convened a small committee focused on researching these three COAs. We intend to produce a comprehensive decision brief by the end of FY08 so that we can act on the decision in FY09. The "Stay-Go Committee" consists of myself, Patricia Graesser, Win Wang, Barbara Maciejewski, Jim Valk and John Christensen.

Next, GSA has initiated a Space Requirements Development Proposal to begin this month with data collection followed by walk-throughs and interviews. The study will conclude in May with three products: the Final Program of Requirements, Detailed Space Requirements and the Final Workplace Profile. GSA will use these deliverables to develop space requirements that will support our mission; create a place that supports how district employees work; define a prospectus submission and the Solicitation of Offers to acquire new space; and communicate key features of our desired workspace for an architect or space planner. Where to locate the

facility is another question.

You need to know at this point that whatever solution we determine will not be devoid of common sense and will address some of the advantages of our current digs. For example, moving to Ft. Lewis would fail the common sense test. Although cheaper perhaps, those of us living north of Seattle would suddenly find ourselves with a commute that was over an hour each way. As a result, in COA 3 (lease an existing facility elsewhere), "elsewhere" is now defined as downtown Seattle for two reasons. First, it is a central transportation node, and secondly, it is only two miles from FCS. An analysis of all NWS employees' residences on a Seattle map with a center point on the map of FCS shows that 38 percent of us live within 10 miles of FCS and 58 percent live within 15 miles. The distance between FCS and downtown Seattle is small, and the difference is drastically significant in the mass transportation options that downtown Seattle affords versus those servicing FCS. Moving east or west or more than 10 miles north or south creates more transportation problems than it solves with longer driving commutes, heavier traffic, or maintaining the one-bus-equals-two paradigm. Downtown Seattle optimizes the "elsewhere" COA.

In the development of all COAs, the Stay-Go Committee will give due attention to the amenities that we currently enjoy at FCS. Whether the solution is downtown or a new building at FCS, we will pursue including the following services inside our facility: child care, cafeteria, gym/health club and parking. We understand the parking issue is very important to many employees. In fact, the terms "showstopper" and "deal-breaker" are not uncommon in our discussions and research into the parking puzzle.

Other facts bearing on the COA development include the relative costs of leasing district offices. The District pays \$22.20 per square foot. I will spare you the calculus, but leasing space in downtown Seattle could easily reach the \$40 to \$50 per square foot mark. In comparison, however, New York pays \$52.74 per square foot; San Francisco, both division and district, each pay \$46.82 per square foot; Baltimore and Los Angeles are each just under \$34 per square foot and even Omaha is just shy of \$30 per square foot. Keep in mind that these figures are FY06 prices.

Still, the COAs of renovating 1202 (behind us) and



Cover: An unusual rain event deluged streams and rivers in the Chehalis and Centralia areas of Western Washington. There, Interstate 5 was shut down for four days. To open the freeway, it had to be drained of 20-miles of flood waters. The state and Lewis County requested technical assistance from the Corps when it was determined that controlled breaches of levees could help speed up the process. Flood fight team members Catherine Desjardin, left, and Laura Orr, discuss the amount of rock needed for the levee breach repair at the airport levee while trucks arrive with more rock. (Nola Leyde Photo)

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This issue of *Flagship* is dedicated to Ruth Gardner, an electrical technician, with the Northwest Area office at Fort Lewis. She has a unique background, including being a high-voltage 'lineman.' Her coworkers appreciate her sense of humor. Notably she recently saved the Army more than \$3 million by her design reviews and received both the District and Division Commander coins.

Flagship

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High season for political debate can raise tensions, tempers

This is the time of year when heated words get exchanged in political debates, and also in conversations by supporters or opponents of candidates and policies.

It is in our best interest in the workplace to remember that consideration for others applies now as much as ever.

While political affiliation is not a protected class by EEO law, there are restrictions on what is and isn't permitted in the workplace (see Hatch Act restrictions at: http://www.osc.gov/ha_fed.htm). Moreover, discussions regarding the political can often spill over into discussions of policies that touch on or are directly about race, religion, gender and other protected classes.

Our "Consideration and Respect for Others" and the DA "Policy on Harassment" policies are more than words on paper.

Two recent incidents show a renewed need for consideration for others:

Recently a document was found on a district copier. Although the content appears to be directed toward a political candidate viewpoint, the words and punctuation were offensive and have the potential to alienate, harass and discriminate many people on the basis of religion, race, gender and or color!

Then one of the latest postings on Communication Express was interpreted by some as having a discriminatory, harassing nature toward individuals with disabilities. Those who have real disabilities which are not readily apparent often can be perceived as "faking" or "cheating" when they claim any entitlement like handicapped parking.

Even if we could overlook any violation of regulatory guidance on email/copiers/parking we need to be mindful of conducting ourselves appropriately in the workplace:

- What one individual believes to be acceptable behavior either due to their socialization, experiences or current events may not in fact be acceptable behavior for the workplace.

- Comments about an individual's or a group of individuals' gender, religion, disability, national origin, color or race when done or perceived to harass destroys morale, teamwork, impedes efficiency and goes against and violates the Army's core values.

- When individuals and teams have consideration and respect for others it allows each of us to work together in an environment free from actions (be it verbal, non-verbal, electronic or visual) that could degrade our cohesion and our ability to accomplish our job.

- Each of us is accountable for our actions, inactions, choices and decisions we make in our interactions with and towards others.

Anyone who witnesses or experiences possible inappropriate behaviors will ensure the behaviors are made known to those who caused them either by informing the individual of inappropriate behavior directly or via a supervisor,

utilizing Alternate Dispute Resolution or staff assistants based on their comfort level with the situation. If you have questions about the policy or appropriateness of materials, please talk to your supervisor or call the EEO office at 764-3501.

Both the "Consideration and Respect for Others" and the DA "Policy on Harassment" policies can be found on eNeWS under the EEO team page under EEO Laws, Regs, and Policies . – *Judy Smith and Patricia Graesser*



Judy Smith
EEO, Chief

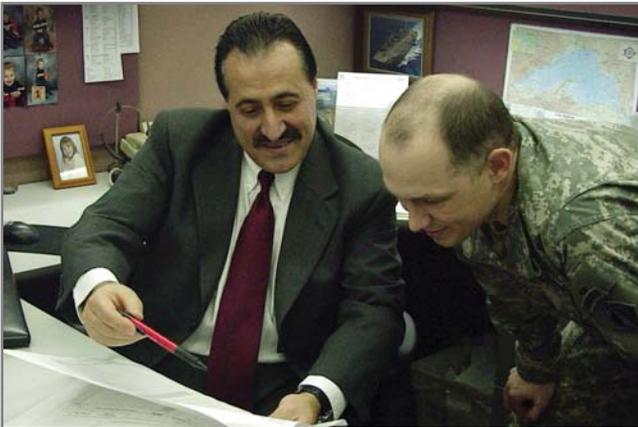
12 things not to do:

In a five-year study, researchers at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia found that more than half of the 775 workers surveyed ranging from executives to data-entry clerks said they were distracted by rude behavior and got less done while fuming about it.

Not everybody agrees on what rude behavior is in the workplace or what the effect of poor communication skills may have on the outcome. Still, most people agree there are some behaviors that would make everyone's list of workplace rudeness. Here are a few:

- You act as though you are the only employee in the office -- making demands on everyone's job.
- Leaving a dribble of coffee behind so you won't have to brew the next pot.
- Co-workers are having a loud and raucous discussion while you are trying to work on your computer.
- Being ignored, not acknowledged or greeted.
- Being treated in a condescending manner.
- Someone else takes credit for your suggestion or idea.
- Swearing or using foul language.
- No one ever considers saying, "thank you," "please," or "you're welcome."
- Your boss rolls his or her eyes in a meeting after you've made a comment or suggestion, allowing everyone to see it's OK.
- Your boss or cohorts do not deem it necessary to give compliments, even when your task has been above the call of duty.
- Knowing you have body odor and doing nothing about it.
- Never opening the door for someone who has his or her hands full.

New program hits the ground running in Seattle



Ensuring reliability standards will be Shahbaz Naftchi's top priority. He will be working closely with many departments and championed by Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Matt Cadicamo. (Bonnie Ecker Photo)

Reliability. It's not just a corporate buzzword from yore. It's here and coming into your work process.

Seattle District's new Reliability Compliance Program is in full swing.

This program was established to facilitate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to become compliant with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved reliability standards and ensure the district stays in compliance.

Bulk electric system users, owners, and operators perform a key role in the reliability of the bulk power system and, therefore, are required by legislation (Energy Policy Act of 2005, Title XII) to comply with the standards.

As an owner and operator of hydroelectric generating facilities, Seattle District is subject to compliance with mandatory reliability standards.

The applicable standards include a broad range of requirements involving planning, scheduling, and monitoring power production; maintenance of power plant equipment; protec-

tive relay operation and diagnostics and security of both the physical plant and its computer systems.

In 2007, Northwestern Division established a product delivery team, composed of district and division personnel, to develop and implement a reliability compliance plan. Each district performed a gap analysis to evaluate the applicable requirements and identify any requirements that were not being met. Draft mitigation plans developed will be finalized later this year.

Corps headquarters also formed a PDT in 2007 to develop policies and guidelines to support Corps-wide compliance with the reliability

standards. Compliance with the reliability standards involves self-certifying that the standards are being met, and self-reporting where we are not in full compliance. A mitigation plan outlining actions needed to come into compliance and tracking performance is required.

At the district level, Shahbaz Naftchi, electrical engineer in the Project Support Section of Operations, will lead the charge to reliability compliance as the new coordinator of the Seattle District's Reliability Compliance Program.

Naftchi transferred to the Seattle District in September from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Bremerton. He served as the facilities engineer and worked on shore support equipment design and acquisition, and MILCON projects.

A Web site for RCP has been created on our intranet as one tool to communicate the information to the entire district. — Shahbaz Naftchi



Color me beautiful

Seattle District employees join a non-profit group to help 'Paint Tacoma Beautiful'. The owner of the property which was painted was so pleased she sent a letter to the district thanking the group. Team members pictured above are: Laura Wilson, John Herem, Dave Muellerleile, Mel Polk and Arill Berg. (Courtesy Photo)

NWD steps up to the deployment plate, hits a homer

The Northwest Division is no slouch when it comes to deployments.

Its districts are beginning to have a reputation for not pausing when the mission takes its staff out of its corner of the nation.

The operational tempo for the Corps has been especially high since the Global War on Terror operations began. NWD has been there from the start.

“We have had a constant stream of volunteers since the war started,” said Seattle’s Chief of Emergency Management, Paul Komoroske. “I think it’s a credit to our District that we’ve averaged from 13 to 20 or more people deployed at any time since we started.” Currently Seattle District has 14 deployed.

A report recently released that showed the breakdown of participation across the Corps, gave NWD a very high percentage. Additionally, the re-deployment rate has been consistent.

Nearly two percent of the division has deployed, with a 2.5 percent redeployment rate.

The draw: unparalleled professional experience, say many of the deployees. That coupled with the feeling of making a difference is what drives these Pacific Northwest Corps people.

“Initially, I deployed because I felt it was my duty and with my background in Construction it was the right thing to do,” said Donna Street, a Walla Walla district employee who served as chief of engineering and construction in Iraq. “I redeployed because I fell in love with the people and the work... I felt that the work in my area was creating a significant difference for those Iraqi people and having a direct impact in improving their standard of living. We



Seattle District deployee, Jim Hilario, center above, conducts a site visit at Mosul Dam. The Dahuk Resident Office has been given jurisdiction on monitoring the dam renovation. Phase One is to upgrade the five grout plants at the dam site. Hilario is a quality assurance inspector who is normally stationed at the Northwest Area Office located on Fort Lewis. He re-deployed a month after returning from a year-long stint in Iraq and is anticipated to stay there no less than six months. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo)

were able to bring to people basic standard of living that we take for granted – water, electricity, security.”

It doesn’t seem to be any particular career field that goes more than others. Engineers, scientists, contract specialists, quality assurance, public affairs, office of counsel – they all go, according to Lisajoy Lazo, who worked for the last few years with Seattle’s Emergency Management and now works with the executive office.

“I’d say we’ve had a pretty good cross section of the district,” she said. “I’ve deployed administrative staff, quality inspectors, lawyers, environmental folks, civil and mechanical engineers, and trade skill workers from the project offices.”

Despite the strong response, even more volunteers are needed. The Gulf Region Division Web site has pages and pages of job opportunities and in every career field imaginable. In fact NWD has seen family members deploy together, from Seattle alone there have been three husband-wife teams: Norma and Al Gasparian; Mark Springer and Tracy Hunter; and Dennis and Caryn Graham.

Komoroske and Lazo both feel that Seattle as well as the division’s response will

continue to be strong.

Anyone interested in deploying – NWD or otherwise – can find all the latest job announcements at <http://www.usace.grd.mil>. Go to the ‘Work for Us’ button on the left-hand side of the site. – *Casondra Brewster*

Move

Continued from page 2

building an entirely new facility are viable. The costs of design and construction of a new facility would be in the millions of dollars, as would renovating 1202. Where do we place a new facility? Does a new facility displace the parking lot? If a new facility meant that everyone has to park in the east parking lot, is that answer worse or better than downtown Seattle? Do the construction costs eclipse renting elsewhere over the same period of time? Do the benefits (and disadvantages) of moving elsewhere change the answer to this question?

We will address all these questions this year. Common sense will not take a back seat. Bottom line is that we’re moving: either two miles or two hundred yards. Either way, we’ll be looking at all the possibilities and their benefits and costs to the district—both in terms of mission accomplishment and workforce satisfaction. Additional information can be found on the Facility Team Web site. – *Lt. Col. Matt Cadicamo*

The list is long....

Seattle District has deployed folks nearly 125 times in order to support the Global War on Terror.

To join this list, contact the folks in Emergency Management to see what positions in either Iraq or Afghanistan are available.

Here is the list of those we currently miss and wish a safe return home:

- Manuel Bejarano, Resource Management, Iraq
- Kathryn Carpenter, Environmental Manag., Afghanistan
- Su-Chen Chen, Operations, Iraq
- Vincent Daniels, Contracting, Iraq
- Susan Fink, Office of Counsel, Iraq
- Jim Hilario, Engineering & Construction, Iraq
- Daisy Joseph, Contracting, Afghanistan
- Melinda Marquis, Engineering & Construction, Iraq
- Julie McLeod, Emergency Management, Iraq
- Susan Newby, Contracting, Iraq
- William Prater, Operations, Iraq
- Sarasha Schmeets, Operations, Afghanistan
- Claudia Webb, Engineering & Construction, Afghanistan

Prepare, respond and recovery a team



Flood Battle 2007

District works hard to keep the high waters down

Prepare, respond and recover have been the watch words of the Seattle District when hit with hurricane force winds on the coast, concentrated record rainfall inland, mudslides, rising rivers and a closure of major freeway started out the first week in December in Western Washington.

A series of three winter storms brought significant snow, prolonged strong winds to the coasts and mountains and heavy rains. A presidential declaration declared the area a natural disaster.

Preparing for the worst began early. The Seattle District staff was already leaning into the winds before the storms began rolling in. On Nov. 30, in coordination with Portland District, Northwestern Division and Headquarters, the Emergency Operations Center was activated and contact with state and federal agencies was made.

Response came quickly. District Commander Col. Michael McCormick declared an emergency to the Shoalwater Tribe Reservation on the Washington Coast. The reservation sits nearly open to the Pacific Ocean and is subject to erosion from wind and wave action. The tribe asked for emergency assistance to protect the reservation from a potential tidal surge that could be life threatening and damage homes and businesses there.

The district's reservoir control center went into round the clock operations on Dec.

1 and assumed control of three dams for flood risk management. This included Wynoochee Dam on the Wynoochee River and Upper Baker and Ross dams in the Skagit River basin. The Corps' operation of Wynoochee Dam reduced the peak flow in the Wynoochee River by half during the event.

There was great concern that levees damaged in last years flooding and not yet repaired needed to be monitored and quickly repaired to protect lives and property. Flood teams deployed to all the Western Washington flood basins.

The majority of the damage occurred in Lewis County. There, Interstate 5 was shut down for four days. To open the freeway, it had to be drained of 20-miles of flood waters. The state and Lewis County requested technical assistance from the Corps when it was determined that controlled breaches of levees could help speed up the process.

The levee at the airport, a which is a designated Public Law 84-99 levee (which means the Corps is allowed to assist in flood-fighting activities) was overtopped during the event and now was holding water back from the Chehalis River like a bathtub full of water. Pumps that would have drained that area were put out of service by the high water.

Eric Winters, flood engineer, and Skip Green, captain of the district's snag boat, the

Puget, were on site to provide assistance and suggested areas where the levee could be breached. There were four levees in the Corps' program in Lewis County. The Airport levee was deliberately breached in two locations, and after the water receded, a third location where utility lines ran under the levee caused it to fail in that location. Upstream of that location on Salzer Creek, there were two natural levee breaches. The two other levees, Long Road Levee (a federal levee) and Skookumchuck Levee held, with minor scouring damage.

According to Doug Weber, natural disaster manager for the district, the highlights of the response included, "the quick response to Shoalwater and the quick repair of damaged levees, especially in Lewis County. The support from Division and Headquarters came quickly and the local sponsors really appreciated the Corps' effort and work."

The flood fight included assistance in seven river basins, emergency repairs to levees, a berm extension, levee condition monitoring, technical assistance and some 16,500 sandbags.

Now in recovery, the Corps was called upon by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist with handling storm debris. Several emergency responders from Seattle and Portland District have provided technical assistance to FEMA for the debris mission, which included providing technical as-

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LEFT: Two men in a boat looking for a lost airplane stop by to ask flood fight team members Eric Winters and Skip Green, Seattle District, if they have seen it. Winters and Green were surveying a site for breaching to assist Lewis County in draining the flood inundated airport. Draining the area assisted in opening Interstate 5 that was closed for four days. **RIGHT:** Ken Brettmann, water manager, far right, relays current river and reservoir information at the morning meeting in the water management reservoir control center, as deputy commander Lt. Col. Matthew Cadicamo listens. Several other team members check data and weather conditions during the early December flood event. (Nola Leyde Photos)



ance to FEMA to assist state and county in cleaning up debris in the public right ways. From Seattle District, Dave Spicer, Elizabeth Chen and Sue Morgan supported this effort.

“The state, Corps and other federal agencies working together pays the dividends,” said Frickey, the FEMA force leader for debris at the Joint Field Office in Olympia, Wash. “We appreciate having the Corps on board and able to assist in this mission,” he said.

The way ahead includes assessments of state and federal flood management projects in the Western Washington basins, detailed inspections by sensors and the initiation of repairs under the PL 109 program. And flood damage is not over for the seasoned Seattle team.

Nola Leyde



Flooded vehicles and a motorcycle came to rest near a levee breach at the Centralia-Chehalis Airport during the flood event.

District's military construction facing record-setting year

Military Construction (MILCON) Projects, recently completed and those under way this fiscal year, have set a fast-paced and highly competitive environment for the District's Military and Construction Branches. With major, critical projects under way and planned at Fort Lewis, Mountain Home and Malmstrom Air Force Bases, MILCON is looking at a record-setting year.

Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center, the largest customer for MILCON, currently has very robust construction programs. Anticipation is that those programs will continue strong for the next five years. Installation infrastructure is being transformed to accommodate newly-arriving tactical units. The MILCON budget for Fiscal Years 09-13 is \$2.05 billion at Fort Lewis for the Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, National Guard, Non Appropriated Funds (NAF), Southern Command and DoD Medical, according to Thomas Poole, Army Program Manager.

Projects include new barracks; company, battalion, and brigade headquarters; tactical Equipment maintenance facilities; ranges, and working dog kennels. Additional projects include medical/dental clinic and military treatment facility and child development centers. Major infrastructure improvements include a fitness center; ROTC renovation (currently housed in World War II-era buildings), chapels and fire stations. Fort Lewis will expand from about 21,000 soldiers to 32,000 soldiers and family members over the next few years with new units being stationed there. Fort Lewis had previously been very aggressive in demolition of World War II facilities to meet Congressional requirements and that has left Fort Lewis short of facilities to adequately support garrison activities, train Soldiers in the field and to maintain weapon qualifications.

New Army standards require larger facilities so that the Soldiers have the correct amount of space to accomplish their missions. In addition the increased numbers of Soldiers require more and updated ranges and training facilities.

Due the significant population growth, family and community support services for Soldiers and family members are severely strained. Fort Lewis is short of Child Development Centers and Youth Centers to support the increase in the number of Soldiers' families. Projects have been inserted into the Fort Lewis Military Construction (Army) program to provide the number of facilities required to support the need, according to Poole.

A common thread through all District MILCON programs is the booming civilian construction market all across the district's area of operations. Because of increasing costs



it has become even more of a challenge to build the size and quality of facilities needed since funding lines are generally written several years in advance of construction and rarely keep pace with inflation in the construction industry. In addition there is a significant volume of non-Army construction available for contractors to pursue. MILCON planners expect this trend to continue in the near term.

MILCON projects, for which the U.S. Air Force is the customer, include Malmstrom Air Force Base near Great Falls, Mont. and Mountain Home Air Force Base, an hour south of Boise, Idaho.

Some Air Force projects at Malmstrom have included a new \$4 million Corrosion Control/Air-Ground Equipment Facility, for the 341st Space Wing as well as an extensive airman dormitory renovation.

At Mountain Home projects include the new 19,100-square foot base operations building costing \$9.3 million and replacing one of the oldest standing buildings on the base. It will be home to the 366th Operations Support Squadron incorporating airfield operations, air-



TOP: The Whole Barracks Renewal Program on North Fort Lewis has provided contemporary living spaces for single Soldiers and functional space for Company and Battalion headquarters.

ABOVE: An Air Force enlisted dormitory on Malmstrom AFB, Mont., offers "world class" accommodation for 56 junior airmen now that a total renovation has been completed. (Dick Devlin Photos)

field management, Radar Approach Control, or

Continued on page 9



*Up a tree
in Albeni*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work in some really nature-intensive spots, including Seattle District's Albeni Falls Dam area. Linda Lamb, got this shot. The bear was foraging on some apples near the maintenance compound when the contract maintenance workers came back from their work in the field. Their arrival scared the bear enough so that it ran up the tree. It stayed there until the workers went home (approximately 20 minutes) and then worked its way back down the tree. Once on the ground, it took off running away from the compound. (Linda Lamb Photo)

MilCon

Continued from page 8

RAPCON, and a weather detachment. Construction of a 55,000 square-foot "extended stay-hotel" for the base is under way.

Similar in nature to a dormitory or hotel complex the facility is intended to provide temporary lodging for airmen and their families awaiting available permanent residences on base, or those who have left quarters and are preparing to relocate to their next assignment. The majority of military installations worldwide have similar projects already in use.

It is also the scene of a massive demolition and rebuild of sub-standard, old family quarters with the latest completion of Phase Five Housing bringing to 462 the number of new units brought on line in the past few years. Phases Six and Seven are under construction now and will include another 318 units. The total program calls for 1,324 units on base at completion of all construction. — Dick Devlin



A new chapel center for Soldiers and families on North Fort Lewis, shown here nearing completion, can support some 600 worshippers of various faiths. The design also includes individual spaces for smaller gatherings. (Dick Devlin Photo)

Watchable wildlife

Getting a bird's eye view at Libby Dam

It's not the most popular "reality show," but for nearly 19,000 viewers last year, it was an exciting season, watching a nesting pair of bald eagles raise two new additions at Libby Dam, in the far corner of northwest Montana.

Near the dam, in a large pine tree, an eagle's nest rests some 100 feet above the ground. Unknown to the nesting eagles, a camera sits camouflaged in a metal box protected from the weather, providing views of the nest. Wires run down the tree and then underground to the weather station, 600 feet away where the closest power source and video transmitter are located. The signal is then sent to the visitor center where a computer posts the photos to the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Web site. Viewed around the world, it is one of the most visited sites on the district's web page.

The eagle cam Web site reached 18,715 viewers during the 2007 nesting season, which ran from March 15 to July 13. The eagle cam's popularity has soared since its inception in 2004. Mark Andreasen, Libby Dam Park Ranger, finds encouragement from eagle watchers from around the world in managing the nesting site's hidden camera and Web site.

"I know right away if the site is down," said Andreasen. "The phone calls and Emails start coming in, and I can't always fix it right away, but I do the best I can. It helps to have some technical understanding of the system to keep it up and running with minimal disturbance to our

customers."

According to Andreasen, two lines come down the tree, one for power and one for video to the weather station. At the weather station the signal is sent to a wireless receiver on the top floor of the visitor center. From the receiver the signal is routed into the visitor center where the cable is split. "One way goes to a monitor in the Visitor Center display area where the public can view the live broadcast on a television monitor. The other way goes to a computer in the visitor center basement that receives the camera feed. Insufficient bandwidth prevents us from offering a live video feed over the Internet. Instead the computer digitizes a snapshot from a single frame from the video feed, though low resolution it gives you a good 'bird's-eye' view of what is happening in the nest," he said.

"The software uploads a photo file every 10 seconds to the server at the district's headquarters in Seattle, and then displays the picture over the internet on the Libby Dam Web site. It's really a team effort and there are a lot of people behind the scenes that made the Eagle Cam work," Andreasen said.

"The set up was a group effort. The contractor working on security upgrades at the time donated the equipment and we had a contractor climb the tree to mount the camera. The Libby Dam electricians set up the transmitter and receiver at the weather station and visitor center. They also wired all the connections at the weather station and visitor center. Our computer support at the dam set up the computer hardware and Seattle District computer support set up the Web services," he said.

Information from the camera is also used by wildlife biologist to determine nest activity and productivity. This information is shared with the state of Montana for inclusion into the state data base where nesting trends for the state can be compared from previous years.

The Souse Gulch nest has been active since 1996 but not productive until the 1997 nesting season when two eagles were fledged (when they leave the nest) from the nest. Since 1997 there have been 21 eggs laid, with 19 eagles successfully fledging from the nest.

"In terms of eagle productivity this is a very productive nest with a nest success rate of better than 90 percent," said Andreasen.

The natural resource section at Libby Dam, manages nearly 2,000 acres of land to help replace the wildlife winter range flooded by Lake Koocanusa, and is active in bald eagle management. The Souse Gulch Eagle Nest camera, known also as the Eagle Cam, is turned on in early spring and off in late summer, and is part of the Watchable Wildlife Program at the dam.

In 2007, the nesting process began on March 15. "The eggs were laid March 26 and hatching happened on April 30. The final fledging flew July 13. The down side of fledging is we don't see much activity at the nest until next year, now that they have experienced the freedom of flight," said Andreasen.

The Eagle Cam website is located on the district's Web site at www.nws.usace.army.mil, and will begin transmitting images again in March 2008. — Nola Leyde



An adult eagle, in an image captured by the hidden web cam mounted above, sits in the nest at Souse Gulch near Libby Dam. (Photo courtesy Eagle Cam)



Libby Dam electrician Ben Riddle gets the receiver at the Visitor Center ready for the 2008 nesting season. (Mark Andreasen Photo)

Welcome to the district family



Charyl Francois
Economist
Planning



Deborah Black
Civil Engineer
Engineering & Construction



Ken Hiratsuka
Mechanical Engineer
Design Branch



Rhonda Lucas
Biologist
Project Management



Royanna Solis-Garcia
Project Engineer
Project Management



Sandra Hughes
Civilian Pay Technician
Resource Management



Sharon Gelinas
Geologist
Technical Branch



Steven LaFayette
Lock and Dam Operator
Operations Division



Michael Johnson
Security
Chief Joseph Dam



John Landers
Security Specialist
District Headquarters



David Wong
Civil Engineer
Design Branch



Walter Hammermeister
Dam Equipment Mechanic
Operations Division



Ryan Wood
Dam Equipment Mechanic
Operations Division



Glenn Kato
Civil Engineer
Design Branch



Scott Campbell
Physical Scientist
Technical Branch



Nika Jean Austin
Daughter, 7 lbs 4 oz.
Allen Austin, IMO



Clay Thedy
Carpenter
Chief Joseph Dam



J.D. Freed
Painter
Chief Joseph Dam

Around the district

Kudos

On Feb. 4, Col. Michael McCormick announced the selection of **Beth Coffey** as the new Civil Programs and Projects Branch Chief within PPPMD. As a civil engineer, Beth brings a diverse background of civil and environmental project management in addition to supervisory experience as a section chief within Regulatory Branch to this position. She is currently serving as acting Technical Support Branch Chief within Operations Division. Beth will transition into this position in April/May.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Pang** (EC-NW-FL), Jeanette Fiess (EC-DB-EM), Megan Gottlieb (EC-DB-SP), Jennifer West (EC-DB-CS) and John McAvoy (EC-DB-EM) who have recently been notified that they have passed the Professional Engineering examination.

Moving Around

Navigation Section at Seattle District; Federal Center South; has physically moved. Navigation Section has relocated to the middle of the building, 2nd Floor. They are now located

in the vicinity of column C5, adjacent to Contracting Division and Construction Branch. This area is north of the Preston Room in the space once held by LMO. Navigation Section was relocated in a cooperative agreement with Regulatory Branch so they could have all their people together.

Moved on: **Steve (Steven R.) Hanson**; Realty Specialist/Army Program Manager for Realty Operations Branch, Real Estate Division; left Seattle District this past October. Steve began his employment history with the Corps in the bi-centennial year of 1976. Steve continues his 32 plus years of Federal Service with NOAA.

In Memory

Bill (William Chesley) Alguard, 81, of Grapeview, Wash., former Chief of Operations at Seattle District passed away peacefully on December 13, 2007. It was noted, he loved hunting with his dogs, fishing, and cars. To his children and many others, he was a "mechanical genius" who could build or repair almost anything.

Former Real Estate Appraiser, **John (Jack) Lowry** passed away on October 27, 2007. He retired in September 1998 with 20 years in service. He was a long time resident of Kirkland, Wash. But moved to North Carolina to be near his children.

Edward A. Russell, Jr. passed on Dec. 21, 2007. Russell was a retired Real Estate Realty Specialist with Acquisition Branch.

Retiring

Bob (Robert M.) Rawson, Chief, Project Support Section, Operations Division, Technical Support Branch, joined the ranks of the retired just as the new year of 2008 began. He has 36 years of federal service.

Patrick J. McKinney, Civil Engineering Tech, greeted the New Year newly retired in January.

Lake Washington Ship Canal's Project Manager, **John T. Post** retired in December 2007 after 26 ½ years at Seattle District.

Randy Moriniti of Albeni Falls Dam has retired.

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....



Susan Fink, attorney, visits a local Baghdad school. Fink, who's stateside assignment is with Seattle District's Office of Counsel, is among hundreds of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer civilians deployed to not only Iraq, but Afghanistan as well. (Courtesy Photos)

Hi! I've enclosed a photo from the only time I've been outside the wire. I'm paying a visit to a Baghdad school, Thifaf Al Neel, which we renovated and repaired. Most of my time is spent reviewing construction contracts – I'm at the Gulf Region Central District, the busiest district in GRD. You can tell that we're well-guarded and when we travel by land, we're in armored vehicles. I've enclosed another photo of me by a REVA – it's a tactical vehicle made in South Africa. No, I don't drive it, but I recently got training on handling ammunition and radio communications, just in case.

My tour is up (soon)! See you sometime after that. The admin leave sounds GREAT.

Thanks!

– Susan