



Volume XX No. 3
May - June 2008

Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT

**Green River
predator study
Pages 6 -7**



Inside this issue:

Leaders' Corner	2
Farewell thoughts	3
ACE-IT Transition	4
Libby Dam holds back water	5
Hunting for facts	6 to 7
Snow pack and water data	9
Around the District	10
Postcards from the Front	12



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Vol. XX

No. 3

McCormick: *Farewell, thanks and see you soon*

This column (save Patricia Graesser's interview as part of this issue) will be my last opportunity to communicate to you via the Flagship. As I depart this district for command of the Hurricane Protection Office in New Orleans I want you to know that I take very fond memories of my time in Seattle.

In closing out this column (one that I freely shared with members of the District's Corporate Board during my tenure), I would simply like to offer a few points and perspectives. First, I would like to thank-you for the important work you do as a member of Seattle District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As you know, this work is critical for our Armed Forces and the people of this region and the nation overall.

Accomplishing this work is of course no easy task. One need look no further than the huge Military Construction program, the levee rehab work, the seemingly routine flood fights, the environmental improvements and maintenance to our six operating projects, the many projects in support of Environmental Protection Agency and our varied Interagency and International Support customers, our ecosystem restoration projects, navigation, real estate and regulatory programs to verify the enormous effort required to execute the Seattle District mission.

Second, I would ask that you continue to build the cohesive team necessary to sustain the District into the future. The sense of teamwork is vitally important given the large work load, but it is equally important in that people (not things) make up the Seattle District. It is people who want to be part of something



During the 2008 Corps Day events Col. Michael McCormick (far right) talks with (from left to right) Col. Mike Rigsby, retired District Commander; Col. Ralph Graves, retired District Commander and Col. Rick Conte, retired, former Deputy District Commander, who served at Fort Lewis DPW and Afghanistan after Seattle District. (Nola Leyde Photo)

bigger, it is people who undergo tough times and need support, it is people who fill voids, it is people who smile and say thank-you, it is people that we the Seattle District serves. Cohesive teams don't just happen out of chance. They happen when the people that make up the teams decide to subordinate themselves to accomplishing the team's objectives. It also helps to have leaders (both formal and informal) that take responsibility and help guide accomplishment of these objectives.

Finally, I would like to say that the district is quite fortunate to have someone of Col. Anthony Wright's proven leadership ability coming to take command. While I did not know him before he arrived for a one week visit in May, I must say that I was very impressed with him. He is an exceptional leader – one I feel will keep things moving in a positive direction. I would ask that you make preparations to get him up to speed on your respective programs as quickly as possible and thus minimize disruptions to the important work we need to accomplish.

Once again, thank you for the extraordinary opportunity I've had to serve in the Seattle District. I will truly miss the people and the area here in the Pacific Northwest. — Col. Michael McCormick



Cover: Aaron Park, Seattle District Environmental Resources section, along with Jeff Gillard from Tacoma Public Utilities, identify a small trout during the ongoing predator study along the Green River. One of the study's focus points is to identify the locations where salmon are consumed. (Ross Embry Photo)

Pie-making commander moves from floods to hurricanes



This Flagship is dedicated to Ferdinand (Ferdie) Rimorin, office support assistant in Real Estate Division. He can always be counted on to accomplish assignments accurately and on time. In work and at leisure, he volunteers to help others. He is always one of the first to volunteer to help with celebrations and events. He is a positive force in contributing to morale.

Flagship

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

Flagship is your 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.

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 or by e-mail: casandra.brewster@usace.army.mil

Col. Michael McCormick has led the Seattle District during the two years in which we saw the implementation of military construction transformation (MT), the Information Management study and resulting move to ACE-IT, the Logistics Management High Performance Office, national contracting organization, record flooding from the west end of the district to the east, and an intensive look at how Libby Dam is operated following the spill and flood of 2006.

He coined the district vision, "Respected for Public Service," and focused on mission execution in all of the district's business lines. He took time to share with the Public Affairs Office his thoughts on commanding Seattle District before he moves on to New Orleans as head of the Hurricane Protection Office following the change of command ceremony scheduled for July 24.

What were your ideas about Seattle District prior to arriving here, and were they borne out?

Yes, I had heard there were great people here—innovative—with a widely varied program. Yes the ideas (and what I had heard) turned out to be true.

What achievements did the District accomplish during your command of which you are particularly proud?

There are a number of areas in which the district has achieved success: the Libby Dam after action review following the 2006 spill and flood, and operations in 2007 and 2008; transitioning to MILCON transformation – it is not complete, it is not easy, but we are moving forward to support the Army—with the largest MILCON program ever for Seattle District.

I was proud of the way the district took on developing a campaign plan and the concept of the program review & analysis. The people in Seattle District who developed and refined these products made them better than I had ever envisioned. This underscores the district's innovative approach to work that I mentioned earlier. With the PR&A and the campaign plan, I think the district has better direction and accountability.

I am pleased with the comprehensive approach to flood fighting with Emergency Management and Water Management linked to-

gether, and flood teams comprised of specialists from operations, engineering, ERS and regulatory. Also I am optimistic that we will rehabilitate the levees that were damaged in recent floods. The level of effort expended to make this happen over the last two years is remarkable.



Rock is placed along the Naches River to protect the city of Yakima's sewage treatment plant during the high waters from snow melt in May. During McCormick's command, he said, that it seemed flood fighting was almost constant. (Rebecca Havens Photo)

I also think the separation of planning and civil works branches better suits the civil works environment in which we operate today — less ability to move money, tighter funding within authorities. The separation allows planners to focus on planning — keeping the pipeline of important projects flowing — and project and program managers to take these planning documents and turn them into executed projects. In the long term the restructuring will help unify all our civil works functions.

I was also proud of Regulatory Branch's move to pentathlete employees, who are now multi-functional and have developed into a great team.

What are your greatest frustrations?

While I acknowledged no organization is perfect, I have found that when things go wrong it is usually because some team member was either not included appropriately or not performing optimally. We need to be firing on all cylinders as a team to be successful. We have superb people that are empowered, which is great, but there are times when the chain of command needs to get involved to ensure that each cylinder is firing properly. It is frustrating to see when earlier involvement by the chain of command could have put the team on track before a misfire.

I very often hear the saying – "It's all about relationships." I must say that this is an incomplete approach to our line of business. While "relationships" are indeed important, I have found that timely execution is much more important for any district. Lasting relationships are founded on an organization's / person's ability to execute missions (in our case, projects) timely. All the schmoozing and talking in the world can't overcome the stark realities of an inability to make progress and get things done. It takes so long to get things done sometimes, and it is that lack

ACE –IT Transition and the Enterprise Service Desk

On May 15, the information management services for the Army Corps of Engineers shifted to the new service provider, known as ACE-IT. People, processes and terminology all changed on the transition date.

One change that will touch every employee is the change in how services are requested. The former Seattle District Help Desk phone number and eN-eWS on-line help request system are no longer available.

The Enterprise Service Desk is the new central point of communication between the ACE-IT team and the Army Corps of Engineers IT user community. The ACE-IT Enterprise Service Desk is staffed with 38 IT professionals to handle your information technology questions and requests.

The ESD is available via phone, toll-free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year at 1-866-56-ACEIT (1-866-562-2348). They are there to assist you with new IT issues and service requests as well as providing you information on existing issues. It is important to submit all requests for IT services through the system to allow the regional and national IM managers to get an accurate picture of what level, kinds and volume of

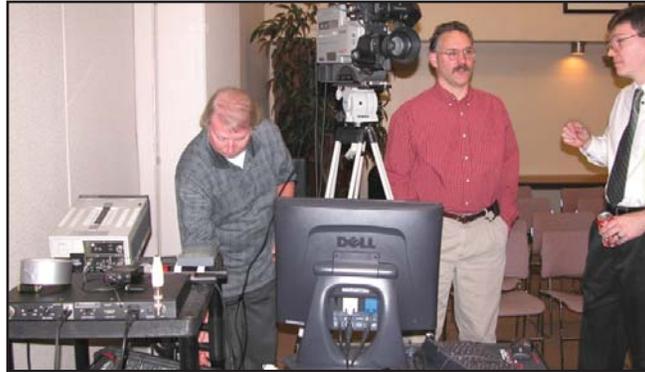
IT support the district needs.

In addition to the phone, you can enter your service requests electronically to the web-based information technology system "ACE-IT Online." There is a hot-link to the system at: <https://ace-it.usace.army.mil/esd.htm>

The IT Requester Console will enable you to generate your own service request (with a unique number) for ACE-IT tracking purposes. In order to better serve their customers, they will ask a series of questions to ensure that they properly document the problem and all pertinent information. They ask for your cooperation and understanding because only through experience, feedback and analysis can they continuously improve service.

As the Corps adjusts to the new way of doing business, the district staff has also voiced its appreciation of the Information Management Office that served before the transition. The former

IMO staff and long-time contractors worked many long hours, under very tight deadlines with less than a full staff to keep the district's systems working so that the mission didn't suffer. — Patricia Graesser



The district says farewell to some of its long-standing information management employees, as it transitions to a new organization and processes. **ABOVE: Kim Carlson, Mark Elkin and James Tyree assisting with a district Town Hall** (Steve Cosgrove Photo)

Where are they now? The district was fortunate to have the dedicated service of the following individuals through the transition date:

- Allen Austin** (now serving the district assisting with ACE-IT transition)
- Ray Camara** (contractor serving the district through September)
- Stephanie Chavez** (now serving in the District's Emergency Management Branch)
- Kim Carlson** (now retired)
- Richard Durr** (now serving with ACE-IT as a Systems Administrator)
- Mark Elkin** (now serving with ACE-IT as Regional Transformation Manager)
- Mark Gross** (contractor serving the district through September)
- Jason Harris** (now serving as the district's ACE-IT Customer Relationship Manager)
- Kirk Hilsabeck** (contractor serving the district through September)
- Stephen Jesse** (contractor serving the district in Geospatial Section)
- Lawrence Lin** (now serving the district in Geospatial Section)
- Alex Little** (student)
- Mike McClellan** (now serving as the Regional Information Officer for the national CECL organization)
- Karen Morgan** (now serving in the district's Data Management Branch)
- Brenda Moriarty** (now serving in the district's Contracting Division)
- Chris Nutt** (now serving as a regional employee working in ACE-IT's Information Assurance Validation and Verification Branch)
- Lisa Neuman** (contractor serving the district through September)
- Tim Spiro** (now serving ACE-IT as PC Technician)
- Kristin Sullivan** (now serving in the district's Operations Division Management Support Branch)
- Matthew Tornquist** (contractor serving the district through September)
- Shelly Trulson** (contract librarian)
- Bill Twomey** (now retired)
- Eyland Washington** (now serving in the district's Real Estate Division)
- Leibnitz Watts** (now serving in the district's Real Estate Division)
- Adam Vashro** (contractor recently resigned)
- Marilyn Watson** (now retired)
- Bill Worden** (now serving in the district's Construction Branch)
- Lisa Wright** (contractor serving the district through September)
- Cindy Yutani** (now serving in the District's Emergency Management Branch)
- Sheldon Zwerling** (contractor whose contract ended May 15)

Libby Dam held back flood waters

Wild, unusually wet spring spawns late snowpack melt then flooding

It's said April showers bring May flowers, but when the cold, wet weather continues, it can also bring an above average snowpack and flooding when it melts.

It has been a cold and wet spring which has had its moments with flooding in five river basins in the Seattle District. The district activated its Emergency Operations Center on May 14 and the Reservoir Control Center (RCC) began to actively monitor river conditions noting increased inflows, and prepared to go into emergency operations, if needed. Though major flooding did not happen in western Washington, rivers were running higher than normal with snowmelt flows and users were warned of swift waters and cold temperatures.

Snowpack in northern Idaho and concerns about the spring thaw and possible flooding resulted in a request from the Idaho governor for advance measures assistance from the Corps at two areas in the northern panhandle of Idaho. The Corps approved funding for an advance measure project in northern Idaho. In the Town of Clark Fork, Idaho, in Bonner County, the Corps removed an accumulation of large woody debris in Lightning Creek which was deposited in a flash flood in November 2006.

In eastern Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana, there was flooding and a request for assistance. The district assisted local communities in five river basins in May — the Yakima in Washington; the Pend Oreille, Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe in Idaho and the Kootenai in Idaho and Montana. The Emergency Management Operations Center remained active through Memorial Day weekend to assist flooding communities.

At the peak there were 17 flood team members in the field assisting with work to repair damaged levees and stop erosion of key infrastructure such as a water treatment plant, a sewer line and roads. The district provided 45,000 sandbags, sheeting and pumps. Downstream of the City of Osburn, Idaho, in Shoshone County, the district team worked with the county to protect a sewer line.

In Washington, the district worked

on a bank erosion project to protect the City of Yakima's water treatment facility on the Naches River. In Idaho, the district provided 20,000 sandbags to the town of St. Maries, 25,000 sandbags to Kootenai County in Idaho for use around Lake Coeur d'Alene, and two pumps for the city of Cataldo.

While the district water management staff was working to carefully adjust Howard Hanson and Mud Mountain dams during the higher than normal runoff period, they were also working with the Northwestern Division Reservoir Control Center, which oversees operations at Chief Joseph, Albeni Falls and Libby dams. Warm temperatures and snow melt also resulted in spill this year at Chief Joseph Dam, a run of the river dam. Starting in 2009, the operation of Albeni Falls and Libby dams will be managed at the district.

Flows in the Kootenai River at Bonners Ferry, Idaho, were high enough to cause extensive flooding, but Libby Dam in western Montana was successful in controlling the river to a level approximately 15 feet lower than would have been experienced without the dam.

Though Libby Dam can never prevent all flooding in the Kootenai Valley, during the past 35 years since Libby Dam went into operation, catastrophic floods that periodically flooded the City of Bonners Ferry and the Kootenai Flats area have



Jerry Cobb, far right, and Jordeane Dent, far left, of the Idaho Panhandle Health Department, visited the Osburn, Idaho, site where a Corps flood fight team and contractor were working to protect a sewer line, to discuss health issues. Flood fight team members include Brad Brandt, Greg Zoeller and Andrew Ohlstrom of the Northwest Area Office.

(Rebecca Havens Photos)

been eliminated.

"Prior to Libby project, approximately one year out of four on average, the Kootenai River would achieve flood levels that put large parts of the city under water and sometimes breached levees in the Kootenai Flats area. The entire community would organize and take all measures possible to minimize flood damage," noted Larry Merkle, a Corps hydrologist at the Seattle District. Currently retired, Merkle has returned to augment water management and emergency management staff and has been an invaluable resource, especially with the flooding the region has experienced in the past couple of years.

With the receding waters and lower temperatures, rivers returned to running below flood stage and the work of Emergency Management to evaluate the high water event effects on levees and flood risk management structures began in June with a request to public sponsors to notify them of any damage. At the same time work continues on the rehabilitation of levees damaged in the 2006 and 2007 floods. Construction is expected to begin in July. — *Nola Leyde*

Hunting for facts: Predator Study unfolds

Located nearly 64 miles above the mouth of the Green-Duwamish River in King County is Howard Hanson Dam. It is a project with a high amount of activity and attention drawn to it. Perhaps the most significant construction project taking place at HHD is the installation of the Fish Passage Facility. Commencing in the spring of 2004, the FPF was designed to better pass outgoing fish migrants such as Chinook and Pink Salmon.

However, there is another project that is imperative to salmon survival in the reservoir, which is the predator study. The primary objective of the study is to quantify the numbers of juvenile salmon lost to predator species in the HHD area.

The study has a focus on three goals: to identify and quantify predators in the reservoir, to identify the locations where juvenile salmon are consumed, and observing habits of predators.

There are several surveying techniques conducted to gather data for the predator study. Hydroacoustic surveying is primarily performed at night using a dual-beam system with downward/forward facing transducers to gather the amount of fish present in specific areas of the reservoir. The avian surveying is conducted approximately once every two weeks to observe the presence of birds in the general area. The survey consists of two full rotations of the reservoir while recording predators observed, with a two hour rest between the rotations. Thus far, the bird predators observed have been loons, mergansers, and eagles.

Perhaps the most active survey conducted for the predator study is gillnetting. A series of mesh nets are set in various locations around the reservoir. They are set in two to 20 feet of water for approximately two hours at a time. "The gillnets serve two main purposes: to identify predator species and to identify what the predators are consuming" said Scott Pozarycki, Corps fisheries biologist. The fish are removed from the nets and certain characteristics are recorded such as sex, length, and weight. The stomachs are flushed with water to provide a sample of what the predator has consumed and are analyzed under a dissecting microscope. The fish predators found so far have been cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and mountain whitefish.

The predator study began in 2007, surveying from April to July. These surveys are scheduled to be performed every year until the FPF is in operation. After completion of the FPF, the predator study will be scheduled to be done three, five, ten and 15 years following. The coordination of this study involves fish biologists with Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Tacoma Public Utilities, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and district operations personnel at Howard Hanson Dam in an effort to preserve and protect the salmon on the Green River. — Ross Embry

RIGHT: The Predator Study team uses a gillnetting process. **MIDDLE:** Nancy Gleason, biologist, recording data while Aaron Park collects the stomach content sample from a fish. (Ross Embry Photos)

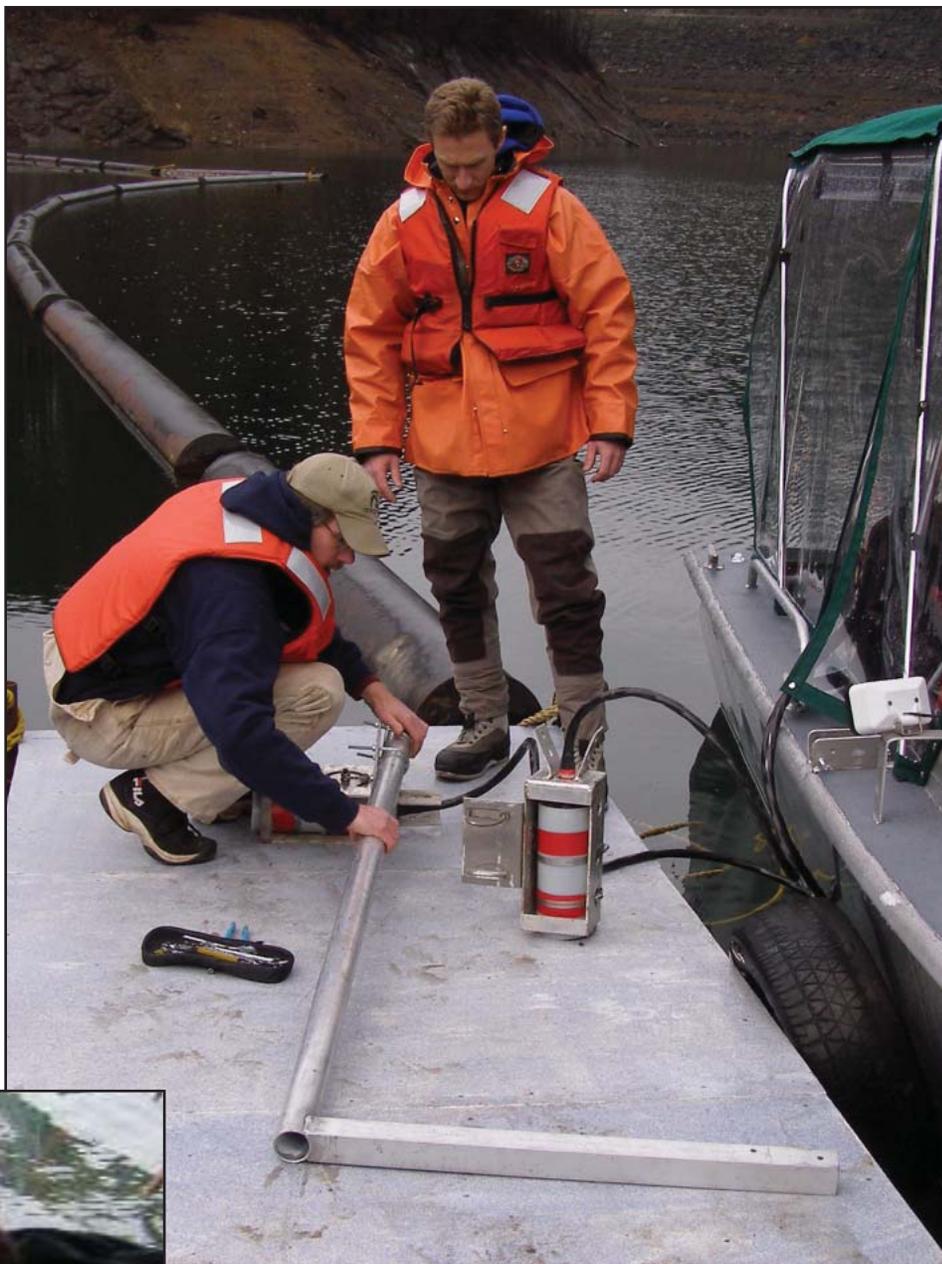


ABOVE: Aaron Park, Environmental Resource Services, **RIGHT:** Corps Scientist Scott Pozarycki with Peter Johnson during hydroacoustic survey.





...samples stomach contents from a cutthroat.
...ason assembling the transducer array for the



The team captures a rare and brief glimpse of an American Bald Eagle successfully hunting on the Green River despite wet weather.

McCormick

Continued from page 3

of timeliness that frustrates me.

What do you take away from your experience of leading Seattle District?

I gained an appreciation for all the USACE programs — not just civil works. I also look at the Endangered Species Act consultation process in a different light — it provides a prudent and necessary check on USACE. This helps us to achieve the best alternative for the listed species while not allowing us to hide behind ESA and, or to overstate required actions. In the end, it is another example of healthy checks and balances that are the foundation of our great country.

What are you looking forward to most about your next assignment?

I'm looking forward to the opportunity of serving the public in an area ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

What would you do if you had an opportunity to serve another year here?

I'd continue to solidify the transformation of military construction, finish levee rehabilitations, welcome the new Operations Division chief on board and see the civil programs / planning separation through.

What do you hope will continue after you leave?

The mindset we have for accountability and public service. The goal of being respected for public service is a good goal to continue to focus on. Performance counseling on a quarterly basis is important to continue. I also think the supervisor brown bags are worth continuing — leadership development is critical to a healthy organization, particularly for a project-funded organization in which funding and scheduling weeks-long leadership training is hard to do.

Finally, I hope the District sustains a more exacting (hard line if you will) approach to including and accepting levees into the PL84-99 program. We need to sustain a firm stance particularly when it comes to levee vegetation and real estate requirements. When we do this, we will preclude the sponsors from transferring their requirements to the Corps of Engineers during the execution of levee rehabilitation projects. In the end, we will be better positioned to meet all of our program requirements and thus provide better public service.

How will you deal with the limelight that comes with the New Orleans assignment, when you haven't appeared fond of being the center of attention?

Like in almost all things, there's a level of balance that needs to be struck. It's not the job of one person to represent the Corps. There are times when I will have to engage with the media, and I'll do what I need to do, but there is a District Engineer in New Orleans as well. There are no indispensable people, so having technical experts do some of the talking is important to build continuity and credibility. An organization's credentials are its people, not specifically the commander. I think some of the experience I have had here with controversial and intensely scrutinized levee and flood risk reduction projects will be helpful.



Flood fighting along with levee rehab has been central to McCormick's time with Seattle District. ABOVE: Emergency Crews work to control erosion on the Naches River in Yakima. (Rebecca Havens Photo)

I believe I can communicate the Corps' goals of reducing risk and the need for teamwork at all levels that is required for a successful project.

Was there any one event that stands out as being most memorable for you?

There was a day in November following meetings and a hike up a mountain in Whatcom County with Ginny Dierich and the EPA administrator to discuss Swift Creek. Once we got into the vehicle for the 2 ½ hour drive back, I got the call from Doug Weber and Larry Schick recommending that we activate the emergency operations center because a major storm event was on its way. The next morning I came into the alternate EOC at the Locks (district headquarters building was undergoing a scheduled power outage) with the key people in place, and Maj. Jansen showed me this briefing I had asked him to develop. The brief really pulled all the pieces together and I thought "Wow – this really gets it done." We were quickly out at Shoalwater extending the flood berm, we had teams deployed out in the basins assisting with flood fighting and it was really easy keeping everybody better informed. We had harnessed all our authorities and could clearly communicate everything we were doing. We were working as a team.

What advice would you give the incoming commander?

The district has great people doing an important mission. With such a varied mission, you'll have a tremendous opportunity to learn. Ralph Graves said it was the best job in the Army, and so it is.

Anything else you would add?

I am extremely proud of being part of this organization or I wouldn't be so disappointed about leaving early. I hope I can continue to be a part of the district family far into the future. The people who constitute the Seattle District exemplify the term selfless service. — Patricia Graesser

Snow, snow everywhere: highlights importance of water data systems

Knowing how much water there is in rivers and reservoirs is crucial to the scientists and technicians who regulate projects in the Seattle District, according to Dave Gustafson in Water Management, the Water Control Data System (WCDS) administrator.

Keeping the information flowing into the reservoir control center in the Seattle District takes several trips to the rivers' edges and the mountain tops in both the Cascade and Rocky Mountains.

To get the information, the district uses the WCDS — a hydromet network that is radio based, but can use telephone and has some satellite capabilities. The sys-

tems and on the mountain tops.

The effort this year also included the installation of new WCDS data collection equipment. The installation team included Ray Strode, Gerald Fletcher (electrical mechanic with Operations Division), and Jason Harris (formerly of Information Management).

The team went snow busting and set out to install the new data collection platform backbone for the stream gauging and meteorological data collection program. This included replacement equipment for Washington, Idaho, and Montana locations.

In the winter and early spring, getting there is not always

easy and it takes an all terrain, over snow vehicle. If you ski, you have probably seen those orange vehicles making their way up the slope, albeit slowly, on four, all rubber tracks. The district has one that it puts to use to maintain radio repeater sites used for communication and sending data on stream flows and river conditions.

It is called a Sno-Cat and the district keeps it at Libby Dam when not in use. Fletcher is one of the trained operators. It is also used to maintain the repeater sites, located on mountain sites, for both the WCDS and the radio repeaters in the district, accord-

ing to Barry Premeaux, electronics mechanic for the district.

For the data to get to the district it travels line of sight and it has to be sent from the reservoir or river edge to a mountain top repeater to a project or directly to the district.

There are 80 to 100 WCDS sites, depending on the time of year, said Gustafson. The sites change with the seasons and also there are water quality stations which measure oxy-

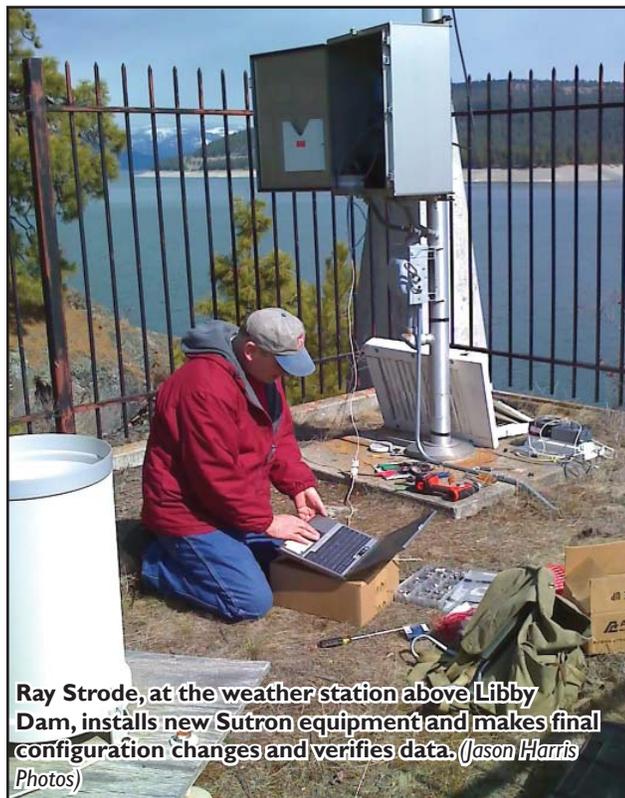


There was so much compacted snow on these mountain towers, it was amazing to the district crews that they didn't collapse or destroy antenna equipment.

gen levels and water temperatures.

Despite the heavy snow encountered at locations such as the repeater site on Mt. Baldy in Idaho, the team was able to install and update the equipment.

"There were a few kinks we had to work out, but we have the system up and running and have been using it this year

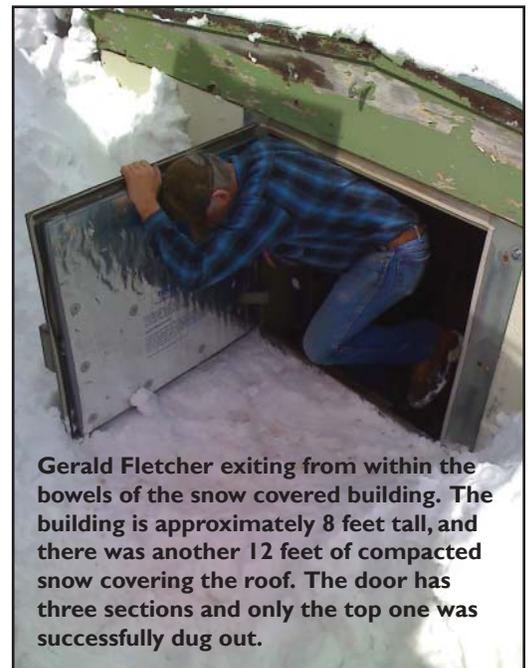


Ray Strode, at the weather station above Libby Dam, installs new Sutron equipment and makes final configuration changes and verifies data. (Jason Harris Photos)

tem sends information from stream gages and water quality systems to the district headquarters in Seattle and is used to operate Howard Hanson, Mud Mountain, Albeni Falls and Libby dams.

"It is critical information used to manage flood risk on the rivers the Corps controls," said Gustafson. Getting the data is no easy task.

Linda Herman, a hydrologic engineering technician, manages the database and Ray Strode, a civil engineering technician, installs and manages equipment on the riv-



Gerald Fletcher exiting from within the bowels of the snow covered building. The building is approximately 8 feet tall, and there was another 12 feet of compacted snow covering the roof. The door has three sections and only the top one was successfully dug out.

Around the district

Kudos

Sheri Moore, Engineering Technical Branch, was selected as the next developmental Action Officer in the Chief of Engineers Command Staff Group. For the past couple of years, the Chief has offered high-performing, high-potential members of the Corps Family the opportunity to serve in six-month developmental assignments at USACE HQ, Command Staff Group (CSG) as one of his Special Assistants. This unique training allows employees the opportunity to travel with and work directly with the Chief, the Deputy Commanding General, and other senior leaders throughout USACE. As a special assistant to the Chief, Sheri will gain a better understanding of the breadth of the Corps' missions while working with the staff to develop presentations, speeches, and read ahead information for meetings and trips."



Sheri Moore

Anthony "Tony" Campo, lock and dam operator at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, graduated, June 8 from Central Washington University (Des Moines Campus) with a Bachelor of Science in accounting. He has worked at the locks and for the Seattle District full time since February 2000. "It's been a challenge to complete my education by only taking two classes per quarter and planning my class schedule around my work schedule which at times required using up to 55 hours of my annual leave each year to attend classes," he said.

Reaching Out Seattle District's boat, Puget has been very busy this past spring but the crew took some time to travel to the Anacortes Waterfront Festival this



Les Soule

past May 17 and 18. Joe Gustafson, Chief, Floating Plant, who participated in the event, said "Weather was great and people loved seeing and touring the Puget. About 1,140 people toured over the three days. The Puget had 35 tons of debris, about half a load on display on the deck, which the crew had hauled out of the (Puget) Sound on the way up to the Festival."

Retirement

Shirley Phelps, Resource Management, retired at the end of March 2008. Phelps had worked at Seattle District for over 8 1/2 years but invested a total of 34 1/2 years with the federal government. Other federal agencies for which Phelps had worked, included: Public Works, Fort Lewis, Wash.; Dept. of Defense, Patch Barracks, Germany; Fort Benning, Ga., and Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Bill (William) Twomey retired as the Chief, Customer Service Branch, Information Management Office May 31. Twomey had spent 23 of his 27 years of federal service with the Seattle District. Twomey spent 1967 to 1971 in the Navy, with a portion of that time as a medic attached with the Marine Corps in Vietnam. Twomey wrote that a highlight of his career with Seattle District was, "Working as part of the IMO management team with very talented people in IMO to meet the District's IT requirements."

Seattle District has lost its soul, Les Soule that is, to retirement! **Les (Lester E.) Soule**, Chief, Programs and Projects Branch, retired the last week of May. Soule devoted 40 years of service to the federal government and the Seattle District and stated that he'd seen "most of Seattle District's Civil Works projects." Soule's career was celebrated with colleagues at a festive retirement ceremony on May 28. The ceremony was as unique as Soule himself, as the ceremony included characters ranging from

Medusa and clowns to leprechauns. Kathy Kunz and retiree Paul Cooke served as emcees, otherwise known as 'Ceremonial Makers of Mischief' and much merriment was enjoyed by Soule's family, friends and co-workers during the afternoon ceremony. The more structured events of the ceremony included Olton Swanson presenting Soule with a 40 year length of service pin; as Soule began work with the Corps on May 20, 1968. The crescendo of the afternoon was Col. Mike McCormick presenting Soule with a deFleury Award. The jovial miasma of exuberance extended through the next day when that at Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp's Town Hall at Seattle District, Soule was singled-out as the "character" of the district. The two men; — Van Antwerp and Soule — traded quips for more than a minute during the

beginning and end of the town hall. When asked to share the highlights of his career, Soule wrote, "Working with a wide range of hugely talented individuals, setting a new dress code and style for those special days (Halloween and St. Patty's Day) and making a lot of friends."

Moving Forward

Will Manwill, Albeni Falls Dam, Afghanistan
Mahlon Good, Chief Joseph Dam, Iraq



Will Manwill



Mahlon Good

In Memory

Bea (Beatriz) Jimenez, Resource Management, wishes to thank her friends and co-workers for their support after the passing of her son, **Beldin Vaughn Jimenez**. "It is still hard for me to speak of my son's passing but I do wish to express my appreciation to my Corps' family who cared so much about my baby Beldin to send cards, condolences and donations for my son's funeral services," she said. "In my time of need, you were able to find it in your heart to help Beldin and I. Although I cannot thank each of you individually, I do thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Welcome to the district family



David Dilks
Office Automation Assist.
Information Management



Gerald Gregory
Contract Specialist
Contracting



Matthew McCoulough
Civil Engineer
Project Management



David Lewis
Electrician Trainee
Chief Joseph Dam



David Miner
Office Automation Assist.
Chief Joseph Dam



Matt Walden
Chief, Technical Section
Chief Joseph Dam



Brandon Caylor
Natural Resources
Chief Joseph Dam



Donlin Dormire
Laborer
Chief Joseph Dam



Marshall Grip
Environmental Protection
Chief Joseph Dam



Richard Huntsberry
General Maintenance
Chief Joseph Dam



Robin Grager
Automation Clerk
Real Estate



Darshan Dorsey
Enviro. Protection Assist.
Regulatory



Les Tomaszewski
Deckhand Aide
Hiram M. Chittenden Locks



Sonya Ybarra
Office Automation
Project Management



Kathy Dunn
Financial Analyst
Resource Management



Dustin Smith
Purchasing Agent
Contracting



Keith Boaz
Construction Control
Northwest Area Office



Melissa Clark
Laborer
Mud Mountain Dam



Jay Parrish
Project Support
Planning



Patricia Blackwood
Supv. Contract Specialist
Contracting



Daniel Miller
Contract Specialist
Contracting



Andrew Ohlstrom
Engineering Aide
Emergency Management



Neil Chalmers
Realty Specialist
Real Estate



Scott Avery
Engineering Technician
Northwest Area Office



Seth Klein
Engineering Technician
Construction



Stephen Pierce
Civil Engineer
Project Management



Roselyn Bailey
Contract Specialist
Contracting



Richard "Joe" Wright
Civil Engineer
Project Management



Adam Zepeda
Construction Control
Northwest Area Office



Michael Friedman
Architect
Northwest Area Office

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

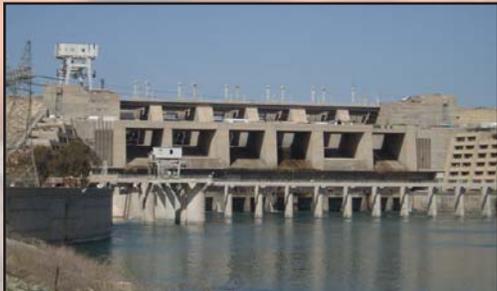
Postcards From the Front...



I arrived (in Iraq) in Febuary. Man! do I miss the snow now. I have become acclimated with the heat and AC units help take the edge off. Probably the most enjoyable experience I will take with me is the joint efforts by the locals, Seabees, Army, Marines, and USACE. Every one brings something to the table to get the job done. — Alan Eastridge, Chief Joseph Dam Deployee.



Alan Eastridge took his skills from Chief Joseph to the Haditha Dam in Iraq. (shown in the other photos on this page). Above he works on the potable water storage project at Al Asad Air Base calculating the system characteristics to verify proper system components. (Courtesy Photos)



Send your 'Postcard' submission — photo and note — to: casandra.brewster@us.army.mil