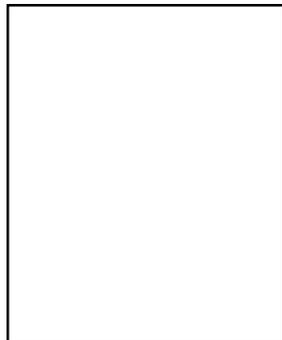


**Ernie Sabo:
60 years
of service**

Vol. XII, No. 1
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A blast from the past: Ernie Sabo, right, confers with Tom Ward while working on Mud Mountain Dam (file photo). Ernie celebrated 60 years of federal service in November.

Col. Ralph H. Graves, Commander
Dave Harris, Chief, Public Affairs
and Managing Editor
Patricia Graesser, Contributor
Steve Cosgrove, Contributor
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US Army Corps of Engineers
 Seattle District

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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 to: david.g.harris@usace.army.mil



This issue was especially prepared for Jon Olson, standing by the Howard Hanson Dam Dedication Monument, and for all employees of Seattle District.



Col. Ralph H. Graves

Commander's Notebook

Looking forward to maintain a Capable Workforce

We're not yet halfway through FY 2002, but it's not too early to start thinking about 2003. Particularly, it's time to think about maintaining our capable workforce in terms of hiring, retaining and training. This year we're undertaking two types of linked assessments to determine whom we should be recruiting and how we should focus our training resources.

The first type of assessment is called Capable Workforce— CWF—analysis. Karen Northup, Deborah Duncan and others from Seattle District and around Northwestern Division created CWF a couple of years ago. It has been conducted in all NWD districts and briefed to audiences around the Corps.

CWF starts by looking at anticipated workload in the next three years. Of course we don't know for sure our work even for FY 2003, but we make our best estimate using all our knowledge of customers' plans, national economic and budget trends and a measure of pure speculation. We may also anticipate changing the manner of doing our work: maybe a new technology, or more design-build, or a different mix of in-house design projects. This adds up to specific staffing requirements, down to individuals in each branch and section.

Next, we anticipate personnel changes. Retirements and transfers are personal decisions, but most people think about them in advance (I know some people who can count the years, months and days to their pension eligibility), and managers need to plan successions in advance. The differences between our requirements and our anticipated strength need to be made up by hiring more staff, contracting out more work or perhaps calling on help from another district. All these actions take time, but performing the CWF analysis enables us to work out strategies and cues us to get started early. Another important feature of CWF is dialogue among different parts of the district, as we compare analyses and consider how our teams will have the balanced capabilities needed to succeed.

One way to close gaps identified in CWF analysis is through training, and the second form of assessment that we will perform this year addresses training more directly. It is borrowed from the uniformed Army's training management system, called METL-based or Battle-Focused Training Management.

METL stands for Mission Essential Task List, and this process starts by identifying 10 or so essential tasks that the district as a whole must perform. Two examples might be, "Operate and maintain water resource projects" and "Design, construct and support military facilities and infrastructure." Then these capstone tasks are broken into components as performed by divisions and offices within the district and then in turn down

(Please see bottom of page 3)

Watching out for each other, because evil lurks

By Maria Or

I just love watching Ed work. Though simplistic, Ed's methods fascinate me.

Ever so still, Ed stands waiting by the heavy front doors of Federal Center South, sounding only in the presence of danger... or metal objects. Ed is a tireless hero in my eyes. Why Ed? Because ED, as I've so cleverly nicknamed our new metal detector, is an Evil Detector! Working hand-in-hand with the brave security guards that protect our building, Ed keeps out the evil that lurks outside our compounds.

And if it were only that simple... there would be nothing to fear. Unfortunately, there is only so much a metal detector can do, and what it really takes to protect a building is the vigilance of every one of its occupants. Even with skilled security guards on the premises, the ownership of safety belongs in the hands of everyone.

I've heard that there was once a time when people didn't have to lock their front doors. And neighbors knew one another. But it seems those time have long gone, and the recent tragedies of America have only reinforced our fears of security breaches.

In my lifetime, I've never known a day where we didn't have to double lock our doors. And even then, I've never really felt perfectly safe behind the locks. The reality is, that there is no place that is perfectly safe, but if we all do our part in watching out for each other, there is no safer place than here.

And that is what I believe. There is no safer place than here.

It's amazing how many times I was stopped in the hallways when I first started here at the Corps. People would randomly introduce themselves to me in the halls and I was forced to do the same. Someone even said to me once that she makes it a point to meet everyone here whom she doesn't recognize.

For me, that's a comforting thought, because I know we're all watching out for each other.

"In our own honest hearts and chainless hands Will be our safeguard." – Ion.Act.v., Euripides

Editor's Note: Maria Or is the newest staff addition to the Public Affairs Office from FedSource. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in journalism. She is active in the Public Relations Society of America and is currently taking a series of courses at the University of Washington leading to certification in public relations.



(Commander's Notebook, continued from page 2)

to branch, section and project team. Identifying the tasks takes time, but we are taking advantage of lists already compiled in Savannah and other districts.

Once the lists are prepared, we assess ourselves as **T**rained, **P**artially trained or **U**ntrained with respect to each task. "P" or "U" gaps can be closed with collective training such as section meetings or project team discussions or individual training ranging from Prospect or online courses to developmental assignments.

The benefits of METL-based training management are that we

clearly see the contribution that training can make to increasing our capabilities, we identify collective training opportunities, and we identify organizational training needs before sitting down to craft Individual Development Plans—IDPs.

CWF and METL analyses don't solve our difficulties with CPOC and Resumix nor solve the challenges we face in resourcing all the training we need. But they do focus attention on the state of the district's most important resource: our capable workforce.

Edward Pena gives new hope to at-risk, low-income students

By Dave Harris

Edward Pena, Installation Support at Fort Lewis, was commended for serving as a guest speaker in one of the algebra classes for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) in Tacoma.

The director, Connie J. Brown, said, "I was introduced to [Evonne] Hinson, a member of the Small Projects Team, who mentioned that some of the professionals in the Army Corps of Engineers would be interested in doing outreach with area high school students.... I was impressed with your unique blend of acumen, wit, realism and empathy coupled with your presentation style.... While maintaining your professional and positive demeanor, you were able to express yourself in a very direct manner that connected with the

students. Your ability to illustrate the use of algebra (which is complicated to some students) in a rather personable manner 'clicked' with some students." The letter added that faculty was "impressed with your ability to relate to the diverse students."

GEAR UP, a partnership of local agencies spearheaded by Pierce College, received a five-year \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant is designed to help "a cohort of at-

risk, low-income" students increase their educational expectations for post-secondary knowledge."

Brown concluded that GEAR UP is about many things, including "nurturing the wounded spirit of a child...giving hope to those who believe that it doesn't exist, but most of all it is about giving. It is for this reason that the staff and students here at Washington High School were thoroughly pleased with your presentation."

"...Nurturing the wounded spirit of a child...giving hope to those who believe that it doesn't exist."

-GEAR UP



The Corps' Edward Pena captures the attention of at-risk students at Tacoma's Washington High School.

'Dr. Sandbag'

Ernie Sabo logs 6 decades of legendary service

By Steve Cosgrove

Legends are often thought of as tales from the past, stories with a basis in truth but enhanced to larger than life. Or a legend may be regarded as a popular myth, such as the recent birth of "urban legends."

Then there are living legends - people who have taken part in many chapters of history, people who embody the organization and personally remember a large part of the organization's past.

Seattle District has such a legend: Ernie Sabo. Shorten it to "Ernie" and most district people will know whom you mean. They know Ernie, or they've heard of Ernie. Ernie stories abound, and after infinite retelling, perhaps only Ernie knows where the truth ends and the enhancement begins.

This legend was a Technical Specialist 5 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt placed the 44th Infantry Division on active duty in 1942. Ernie's National Guard unit was sent to Fort Lewis, where Ernie filed, typed and did admin duties. Towards the end of the war, Ernie was sent first to Germany with the 97th Infantry and then to Japan to become part of the Army of Occupation.

After the war, Ernie used his GI bill to finish two engineering degrees at the University of Washington: civil engineering in 1949 and industrial engineering in 1950. He joined the Corps of Engineers in Seattle in 1952. He'd found his home.

"The best part about this area is the weather - not hot and humid in the summer and no cold winters," says Ernie.

Ernie's primary job in geotech is sub-surface exploration - drilling. He also has a reputation as an encyclopedic resource on almost everything the district does - with the experience to back it up. A self-described packrat, he rarely throws away any information that may come in handy later - data from geotech projects to airfields to missile sites to levees.

It's as a floodfighter that Ernie's story begins to merge into legend. Floodfighters spend days and nights slogging around in the wet and cold, bucking sandbags to save homes, crops and animals as gentle rivers turn into devastating torrential floods.

Ernie has been fighting floods since he was in the Army in 1944. He's been a district floodfighter since 1960.

"I started at the Bonners Ferry basin, but I've been at every basin there is," Ernie remembers. "I've been floodfighting everywhere."

Ernie's flood fights came to be known for their organization, staffing and hospitality room. Work hard, play hard. When the waters started receding, Ernie stayed on for the often daunting task of cleaning up, rebuilding levees and general restoration. Floods leave a mess.



Ernie Sabo

What kept him going for all those floodfighting years, with Thanksgivings and Christmases miles from home and family? Ernie says it's "that kind of work - rush work that needs to be done right now, emergency work. It's really challenging." Another reason is the people. "I like the people who work with us. Everyone who's out on a flood team is out there because they want to be. They're all volunteers."

The volunteer spirit is an integral part of the Ernie legend. The district could always count on him to help get food together for functions or to be Santa Claus for district kids of all ages. And when images of rooster tales and screaming hydroplanes on Lake Washington come to mind, think of Ernie, a volunteer course-setter at the Seafair races since 1953.

Ernie approaches life at a more leisurely pace these days. After 60 years of putting in 50 to 60 hours a week, in the field and on the road - and after spending

time convalescing from a recent hospitalization - Ernie is taking life a little easier. His wife, Paula, who married him when he was in his 50's, thought he was about ready to retire then. Ernie had other ideas. He had work to do, floods to fight, volcano ash to clean up, planes to catch, drilling to do - and more.

Ernie summed up his approach to work - and life - during an interview some time ago: "I like to put in a good day's work for a good day's pay. Every day's a new challenge. No two days are the same."

Do you have 30-second commercial

All of us should have a 30-second commercial, Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers says. Why? When Aunt Trudy, Uncle Jamal or Neighbor Ian asks what you do and how it relates to what the Corps does, you'll be ready. General Flowers has already called Seattle District people and asked to hear their 30-second commercial. When you have yours, why not share it? Send it to PAO. We'll publish it in *Quickread* or *Flagship*!



Jones

My name is **Carolyn Jones**. I was born and raised in Seattle and until sixteen and a half years ago (that's when I started working here), I had never even heard of the Army Corps of Engineers. After working in several different sections through the years, I feel very proud to be involved with an organization that helps to build and operate water projects, construct military facilities and clean up old ones, and most importantly restore and protect our environment and wildlife. I am truly proud to be a member of the "Corps Family."

My name is **Paul Cooke**, and I am a civil works project and program manager for the Seattle District Corps of Engineers. As such, I work with a team of dedicated and responsible individuals that do their best to build projects that we all can be proud of. We work hard at completing these projects in a timely manner and within a reasonable budget. We do our best to please our project sponsors, who are our prime customers.



Kato

I'm **Denise Kato** and I'm the Transportation Officer for Seattle District. I oversee the and transportation programs in the Logistics Management Office. Whether it involves trains, planes or automobiles I am here to you with your travel and transportation needs.

Photos by Kim Carlson



Cooke



Nicholas

e your ready?

Hi, I'm **Phyllis Nicholas**. I'm a born and raised Washingtonian. I've worked in the Seattle District for over 30 years supporting a wonderful group of dedicated, caring professionals in the planning, engineering/design, construction, and environmental fields. This might sound hokey, but I'm grateful for being given the opportunity to be all I could be. Most of all, I'm proud to be a part of this 100+-year-old organization that helped make the Pacific Northwest what it is today - a leader in environmental stewardship, economically prosperous, and militarily strong. If I can assist you, don't hesitate to call me. I've heard people say, "go ask Phyllis, she knows everything" - or at least I know where to go to find out!

ion
travel
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s
help



I'm **John Coyle**, Resource Manager at Albeni Falls Dam. I work with a dedicated team of park rangers and other project staff to manage the varied resources on one of the Corps' most scenic reservoir projects. While our campgrounds are some of the best in the Northwest, our "mission" goes well beyond recreation. Our talented staff, working with agencies, tribes, and the public, promotes stewardship of project lands and waters to maximize benefits for present and future generations. We strive to be "good neighbors" at the project and provide our services to the region in a competent, professional manner.



Coyle



Nakamoto Foxall

My name is **Jim Nakamoto**. I have been with the Corps for 21 years, all with the Seattle District. I am the Seattle-based project manager for Malmstrom Air Force Base. I am fortunate to have at my disposal talented and skilled associates on my team to serve our customers. I also serve as a technical reviewer for in-house and outsourced project designs for the military construction program. My professional discipline is architecture. I serve customers in the northwest region. In addition, I serve to help with research and evaluate products and services for building materials and construction methodologies.

My name is **Horace H. Foxall Jr.** I am the Seattle District's historic architect and program manager of the Corps-wide Center of Expertise for preservation of structures and buildings. My job is to provide the Seattle District with sound economic decisions on the treatment of our historic properties. Together with the Center of Expertise team (Terri Taylor, Heather Conklin, Lauren McCroskey, and Linda Grove), our mission is to provide technical expertise, an information clearinghouse, and direct technical assistance to anyone seeking information about the best means of preserving and maintaining historic properties. We also assist the Army, other Department of Defense services and federal agencies in developing historic preservation projects and programs.

Charlie Baldwin's head perfect fit for Pacific Ocean Div's Hard Hat



By Maj. Chris Lestochi and Bill Walters, Alaska District

Charles A. ("Charlie") Baldwin was named Pacific Ocean Division's "Hard Hat of the Year" for work accomplished at the Elmendorf Area Office in Anchorage. Now he's back again in Seattle District after an assignment with Alaska District as electrical engineering technician with the Tech Review Branch.

Baldwin has 33 years with the Corps of Engineers, including six years in his present position. Before his most recent assignment in Alaska, Baldwin worked at the Elmendorf Hospital Project Office from July 1994 to Feb. 1999 and in the Air Force Branch of the Richardson Resident Office from March 1999 to June 1999. He came to the Seattle District at the Madigan Area Office in 1986 and transferred to the Ft. Lewis Area Office in 1992. The state-of-the-art Madigan Army Medical Center features robots and spectacular views of Mt. Rainier and Puget Sound. It was the Corps' biggest project at the time—called the "Walter Reed of the West."

In Alaska, "Charlie's contributions to the over-all success of the office mission went far beyond his official duties on his assigned projects," said Bill Walters, Elmendorf resident engineer. "His extensive technical knowledge and quality assurance experience had positive impacts on nearly every project."

Baldwin worked in quality assurance on the West Ramp Fuel Hydrant Facility, the Composite Medical Facility, the Catholic Protection/Corrosion Control, and the Upgrade Electrical Distribution System, all on Elmendorf Air Force Base.

He designed electrical upgrades and provided quality assurance representative support during each construction phase on the Upgrade Electrical project for the Southern Alaska Area Office on Fort Richardson and the Tri-Resident Office on Elmendorf AFB. His design put these facilities on the leading edge of technology within the district.

He assisted the lead quality assurance representative in work involving all aspects of electrical construction. He coordinated

multiple change orders and contract required tasks with using agencies and contractors on the Replace Fuel Hydrant System, North Ramp Phase I, May 1999 to November 2000.

Before returning to the Northwest Area Office, he was the main point of contact for exterior and interior electrical portions of a project to replace a fuel hydrant system. He also worked on exterior/interior electrical distributions systems, the telecommunications systems, security system, and the fire alarm system for a missile storage building.

"He has a relentless pursuit of excellence that always results in totally satisfied customers," said Tom Johnson, area engineer. "He is recognized expert on practical aspects of electrical engineering. Engineers throughout the district go to Charlie to find solutions to technical issues."

Baldwin supported, trained and mentored other quality assurance representatives, project engineers, and resident engineers within the area office. He successfully developed and maintained professional and productive

relationships with all members of the project delivery teams.

"Quite simply, the assignment of Baldwin to a product delivery team noticeably improves the optimism and performance of all team members," said Johnson.

Other government team members, customers and contractors respect and profit from his extensive knowledge and experience,

his focus on quality, and consistent follow-through on assigned assignments.

Baldwin was name-quested to perform fieldability, constructibility, operability, and environmental reviews on so complex projects that

will be administered by other area/resident offices, the new hospital at Fort Wainwright and the potential new National Missile Defense X-band radar facilities at Eareckson Air Station.

Baldwin is married to Carol, who has worked in the Alaska District's Regulatory Office. They have two children and three grandchildren. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1956, including service in the Republic of Korea.



Col. Steven Perrenot, Alaska District Commander, presents the Pacific Ocean Division's Hard Hat of the Year to Charlie Baldwin. The colonel came to Fort Lewis to present the award because Baldwin has returned to Seattle District.

"Quite simply, the assignment of Baldwin to a project delivery team noticeably improves the optimism and performance of all team members."

HELP WANTED

Where can more talent be found?

By Maria Or

In the midst of an unsure economy, with pink-slip parades everywhere you look, the Corps is still hiring.

As many industries announce thousands of job cuts, Seattle District is bending over backwards to attract skilled and talented workers.

In order to hire competitively and snatch up talent before it's recruited elsewhere, Seattle District's CPAC—Civilian Personnel Advisory Center—is getting the word out.

Applicants can now enjoy an accelerated application process for select positions, apply electronically, and access job announcements.

Just this winter, at a job fair hosted by Boeing, representatives from CPAC, along with several managers from throughout the district, set up a booth. Their mission was to encourage job seekers to take advantage of the many career opportunities available at the Corps.

With job announcements in hand at the fair, human resources specialist Susan Smith-Anderson says she believes that the Seattle District did pretty well. "District reps were perhaps better prepared than other recruiters at the fair." The Seattle District was able to immediately hand out a list of vacancy announcements that included easier application procedures.

These procedures allow applicants to take a shortcut, Susan explains. Instead of completing the traditional Knowledge, Skills and Abilities—KSA—portion of the federal application, candidates bypass it with a Supplemental Qualifications Statement.

With the traditional procedure,



Mark Ohlstrom, Design Chief, listens to a young engineer's career objectives at Boeing's job fair. Ohlstrom had a few streamlined application procedures in his toolkit in an effort to attract needed skills to Seattle District.

applicants usually answer a variety of questions pertaining to experience and skills. In most cases, detailed written answers need to be completed and submitted for review. Each application is carefully reviewed and rated by a point system. Qualified applicants are then referred in score order to the selecting official who interviews and makes a hiring selection.

With the quicker process, applicants respond to task statements, where they rate themselves and support the rating with experience in their resumes. This

process saves time in rating, and the selecting officials receive referral lists much sooner. According to Susan, this can sometimes move the application process one and a half times faster.

As a result of the Boeing job recruitment effort, applications were received for all the positions, and several have been filled. Approximately 2,000 Boeing and ex-Boeing employees attended the job fair last December. Although most of the positions offered were engineering positions and the majority of the job seekers were machinists and administrative workers, Seattle District still triumphed, according to Larry Senechal, CPAC Chief.

Still, new positions open up on a consistent basis, and the Corps continues to look for skilled, talented and dedicated workers. While there are approximately 80-100 vacancies available at any given year, the potential for promoting internally is also encouraged, Larry says.

The quicker process...can sometimes move the application process one and a half times faster.

-Susan Smith-Anderson

Cultivating Relationships

Native American Coordinator joins Seattle District staff

By Patricia Graesser

Tommye Owings is a small woman big on enthusiasm and commitment. Her desk is just north of the moose in Environmental Resources Section, but as the new Native American Coordinator, she'll likely be out and about often, involved with all sorts of people and projects around the District.

Owings started work at the district Dec. 12, bringing to Seattle a rich and varied background. She served the past three years at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, as an Air Force property officer, working with the Japanese military and Japanese companies.

"You can't take a step there without being involved with cultural and environmental resources issues," Owings said.

She has a diverse technical background in engineering, construction, real estate and surveying, among other areas. Prior to Japan she worked in Oklahoma City in the Office of Native American Programs, handling a seven-state area.

Born in the Smokey Mountains and raised in Houston, Owings has a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M and a master's in civil engineering from Sebourne University. She has been and continues to be very active in the Cherokee Indian Society in the central states.

Being offered Seattle District's Native American Coordinator position was "quite an honor," she said, earnestly stressing that the work meant a lot to her personally and professionally.

In her role as Native American Coordinator, Owings works with Division, Headquarters, and other districts and divisions on Native American issues concerning policy, consultation and protocol. She maintains expertise in federal and state policies, regulations, treaties and laws regarding Native American tribes.

She will have regular meetings as the district representative with tribal chairmen, councils, staff and members to discuss issues and programs. Part of her job is to foster mutually

beneficial relations with the Tribes by assuring that the district addresses traditional and cultural concerns. She will also develop program-related guidance and plan training and workshops to help others in the district better understand Native American issues and policy.

Her work had not taken her to Washington State before this assignment, although she had traveled to Idaho and Montana. She said she intends to spend time traveling around and getting

to know the district and the cultures within the district boundaries.

"I love the mountains," she said. "I love being out in nature."

She looks forward to exploring partnership opportunities for the district and Native American nations. "We can offer each other assistance," Owings said.

She said she has been delighted with how people in the district have welcomed her.

"Individuals have just come zipping in," she said. "It has made me feel good personally and for the work I do. I hope they continue to come in and share information and ask for my assistance."

"You can't take a step...without being involved with cultural and environmental issues."

- Tommye Owings



Tommye Owings

Speaking Outreach

Norm Skjelbreia participated in the 2002 National Engineers Week (E-Week) 5th Annual "Salute to Engineers" videoteleconference broadcast to 100 high schools Feb. 19-22 by Mississippi Star Schools Interactive Video Network.

"Salute to Engineers" is designed to encourage junior high and high school students to consider the challenging field of engineering as a career choice.

Greg Gervais performed outreach Nov. 6-8 on behalf of EPA's Brownfields Program at the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council Conference of Washington in Wenatchee. This group's mission is to act as a clearinghouse for information on grants, loans, and other forms of support for cities, counties, and other groups in the state. With several hundred attendees, Greg said it was a "great outreach opportunity."

Lori Morris briefed the Water Resource Inventory Area-WRIA 8-Forum in Tukwila Nov. 14 on the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project. She discussed the Corps Planning Process, other Corps authorities available to achieve ecosystem restoration and the specifics of the General Investigation restoration project.

That day, Lori also hosted a public meeting on the Chehalis Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project at the district to gather information and to inform the public that the Corps was engaging in a feasibility study.

The next day, Lori hosted another public meeting on the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project here at the district also to gather information and to inform the public that the Corps was engaging in a feasibility study.

On Nov. 16 she attended a Chehalis Basin Partnership Meeting and gave a briefing on the Chehalis Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project. The partnership is made up of executives (mayors, commissioner, etc.), resource agency personnel, and citizens from throughout the basin.

Nov. 30, Lori briefed the Washington State Senate Natural Resources Committee in Olympia about the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project. This briefing was informational only and well received.

Dec. 4, Lori hosted a meeting at the District for the U.S. Geological Survey,

resource agencies and interested parties on the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project. USGS is interested in becoming involved in the study and shared information on their capabilities and current activities. Lori, in turn, discussed Corps capabilities and methods for partnering with other Federal agencies.

Dec. 6, she briefed the Salmon Recover Funding Board about the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project.

Cindy Barger spoke on "ESA/EFH concerns for Ferry Terminals in Marine/Estuarine Areas" Washington State Department of Transportation's Overwater Structure Workshop, Jan. 9 in Seattle.

On Jan. 10, **Gail Terzi and Cindy Barger** spoke on "ESA Issues and Department of the Army Permits" for the City of Seattle Training Seminar.

The pair spoke Feb. 21 on "ESA Programmatic Consultations and Nationwide Permits" for the King County Training Seminar in Seattle.

Michael Lamprecht, Chris McAuliffe, Muffy Walker, Ann Uhrich, Olivia Romano and John Pell had a partnering meeting with members of the Nooksack Tribe on Monday, Feb. 11.

Aimee Kinney and George Hart spoke to the Surf Riders Organization Feb. 15 in Westport on the plans the Corps has for future work within this area of Grays Harbor. This was a direct result of the preventive maintenance the Corps accomplished near the South Jetty that was about to breach as it did once before in 1993-94. The preventive measure was the placement of sand and moving the haul road to a new location. The plan for the future is to place approximately 100,000 cubic yards of material and shape into dunes, then plant with local beach grass to slow erosion.

The surf riders wanted to meet with the Corps as they felt their concerns were not being heard by the Corps or anybody else in that area.

Linda Smith spoke to the WRIA 8 technical committee (Lake Washington Basin), providing a presentation on Lake Washington General Investigation study to the steering committee in January.

Steve Babcock on Sept. 25 presented a paper at the 20th Annual Submerged Lands Conference, Seattle. He talked about management of Puget

Sound contaminated marine sediment from Puget Sound.

Bill Graney and members of the Larson project team (supplemented by prime contractor on this Superfund project, Montgomery Watson Harza), have participated in three Restoration Advisory Board meetings (public meetings) Oct. 25, Dec. 13 and Jan. 17.

Jeff Laufle and his team visited several states and Canada to discuss the proposed variable flows for Libby, Grand Coulee and Hungry Horse dams.

Would-be terrorists have met their match

By Dave Harris

He thwarted shoplifters, thieves, drunks and rowdies. Not enough excitement? He also outsmarted bank robbers at the Federal Reserve Bank. As a U.S. Marine at Sub Base Bangor on Hood Canal, James Sydnor passed on his expertise as an instructor in self-defense and anti-terrorism.

With increased Seattle District focus on security following Sept. 11, James' experience qualified him to become the district security officer, transferring from a position at the Locks.

Clean-cut and confident, he says his most memorable accomplishment was climbing Mt. Fuji in Japan.

Yet this tough former Marine and current military police reservist holds no illusions about his greatest challenge. "Understanding I'm not in the Marine Corps, I must be kinder and gentler in dealing with frustrating situations."

He knows he can handle the challenges ahead in outfoxing the bad guys because of his three other qualifications: "Folks who taught me right from wrong growing up in D.C.," as well as a passion to explore and a background in computer science from Hamilton University.

Whether terrorists plot a physical assault on Corps property or a cyber-offensive, James is determined to see that they fail, no matter where they try to lurk—at dams, the district office, field offices or cowering behind a keyboard.

"Just like I was taught: Stay out of trouble, and make a positive contribution to society."



James Sydnor

Chenoweth's leadership brings campaign success

Led by coordinator **Shannon Chenoweth**, Seattle District won the **Over the Top** award for an agency over 350 employees that substantially increased total dollar pledges over the previous year. The competition included federal agencies throughout King County.

The district was also nominated for the **Participation Award** (most increased participation) and the **Highest Average Gift Award**. The average gift was \$167. This year's participation, 46 percent, beat last year's 33 percent.

Shannon was nominated for **Campaign Coordinator of the Year**.

Total contribution was \$87,669 for the 2001 campaign. The goal was \$75,000. The 2000 campaign brought in \$78,490. The Krispy Kreme Donut challenge was fulfilled with 20 dozen donuts.



Shannon Chenoweth



Art Harnisch, center, and conference friends.

In memory

Art Harnisch, a busy retired Chief Economist, died Feb. 10. He worked for the Corps for 36 years. He was an ardent yachtsman, consultant, historian, frequent attendee at the Seattle District Retirees Association, community activist, investment mentor and world traveler. He had been a president and organizer of the Intergovernmental Public Facility Finance Conference.

Hanford Thayer, 92, died Jan. 25 at home on Whidbey Island, Wash. He was born Sept 12, 1909.

Thayer served in Seattle District and was a consultant to the Manhattan Project from 1943-1946 and to the Atomic Energy Commission from 1946-1956. He was the Project Engineer representative from Seattle District in 1942 for laying out the Hanford Reservation.

He was responsible for procurement of labor, services and material for related research projects at Hanford and the University of Washington to determine the biological effects of gamma radiation, plus studies

of the effects of heated water and chemicals on fish and other river wildlife. To divert attention, a "fake" contract specified studies of "gamma radiation for the control of common fungus."

During a Manhattan Project visit to the University of Chicago, Hanford was under heavy guard where he stayed and ate.

At one point, Hanford diverted wire intended for the ALCAN Highway project to Hanford under the guise of exercising the highest priority held under executive order of the president, according to the Sherm Green *History of the Seattle District, 1896-1968*.

Hanford became a prominent and well known Seattle Engineer who was proud of his more than 39 years of government service in the Departments of Interior, Commerce and Defense. He retired as Seattle District's Chief of Architect Engineering Section in 1974.

Hanford received a Gold Medal for Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Military Engineers.

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