



Fort Worth District Dispatch

Vol. 1, No. 1

December 2003

Contractors garner Corps safety awards

By Melanie Ellis
*Fort Worth District
Public Affairs Office*

An early blast of winter weather didn't dampen the spirits of contractors at the Operation Reward Safety Banquet in Salado, Texas. Instead they piled on layers of clothing and headed for the golf course to participate in a golf scramble organized by Safety Review Board members Roger Anderson and Louis Craver.

The banquet, organized by the Fort Worth District Safety Office serves, as a recognition and rewards program to contractors for putting safety first on their job sites.

Col. John Minahan, Fort Worth District Engineer, met with contractors, some for the first time, at the Stagecoach Inn for dinner and award presentations. After dinner, guest speaker Kevin Bailey talked to the audience about the importance of safety on the job.

In a preventable farming accident, Bailey was conscious during the traumatic amputation of his leg.

"You don't realize the things that are taken away from you immediately after an accident," said Bailey,

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Photo by Melanie Ellis

Salado Scramble

Todd Winnerman, a Fort Hood contractor tees off Nov. 6 during the Operation Reward Safety Banquet golf scramble in Salado, Texas. The banquet was sponsored by the District Safety Office in order to award contractors for excellence in safety.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Fort Worth District

Dispatch

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Creed and ethos outline Soldier expectations

By Col. John Minahan
Commander, Fort Worth District

Our new Chief of Staff of the Army, General Peter J. Schoomaker, recently published his vision for the Army, titled, "The Way Ahead, Our Army at War . . . Relevant and Ready." I think that one of the most inspirational portions of his message was "The Soldier's Creed" and the "Warrior Ethos." The creed and the ethos outline his expectations of our Soldiers.

Certainly many of you have served in Afghanistan and Iraq and can attest that the majority of our Soldiers already live the ideals of this creed and ethos. They certainly have proven this in the sacrifices they have made in support of our Nation over the last several months.

As a District, we must understand the high expectations our Nation places on our Chief and our Soldiers. Soldiers are truly special people who deserve the best we can give them and their families.

In the "The Way Ahead," the Chief stresses that our Army is serving a Nation at war. "This campaign will not be short; it will require deep and enduring commitment. Our individual and organizational approach to our duties and tasks must reflect the seriousness and sense of urgency characteristic of an Army at war. Our Soldiers and our nation deserve nothing less. This is *not* business as usual."

His challenge is to maintain a trained and ready Army and continue to improve the Army in a wartime environment. This is not business as usual for the U.S. Army that we have known and worked for since the end of World War II.

His expectations of Soldiers and sobering comments about the ongoing war on terrorism remind me of the importance of our efforts and role in support of our Army and Air Force. Our work at the Ft. Worth District is more than a job. We all play a vital role in support of our Army. In the weeks and months to come, we are working on several military projects that will have an impact on our Soldiers. They are barracks, ranges, dining facilities, family housing and deployment centers. The quality of these facilities affects our Soldiers' ability to live the creed and ethos expected by the Chief of Staff of the Army.

We are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We have fellow workers deployed in Iraq today who every day know they are a part of the Army. I would even argue that parts of the Warrior Ethos apply to all Army civilians as well because they are a big part of the Army team.

1. I will always place the mission first. (We cannot remain distracted from our purpose. We build things. PMBP, P2, USACE 2012, CEFMS

and the many programs we use are not the end-state. They are merely tools to help us accomplish our purpose. We need to focus our efforts on execution.



The distractions will take care of themselves as long as we keep the mission first.)

2. I will never accept defeat. (Our Nation cannot afford unsuccessful projects. They waste valuable resources that could be used for other important projects.

Unsuccessful projects do not serve our Soldiers in preparing for combat. I think the District does superbly in this area. Despite unexpected changes, obstacles and bureaucratic red tape, I continue to see many overcome these challenges to get projects completed to satisfy their customers.

3. I will never quit. (We owe it to our brave Soldiers to continue forward at all times. I have not encountered any quitters in this District, nor will I accept any.)

4. I will never leave a fallen comrade. (We cannot leave anyone behind. One of the ways we are trying to improve mission accomplishment is through PMBP. PMBP is simply a way USACE is trying to standardize teamwork throughout the Corps. Most of you know that great teamwork usually produces great results. I observed great

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The Soldier's Creed

I am an American Soldier.
I am a Warrior and a member of a team.
I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.
I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my Warrior tasks and drills.
I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.
I am an expert and I am a professional.
I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
I am an American Soldier.

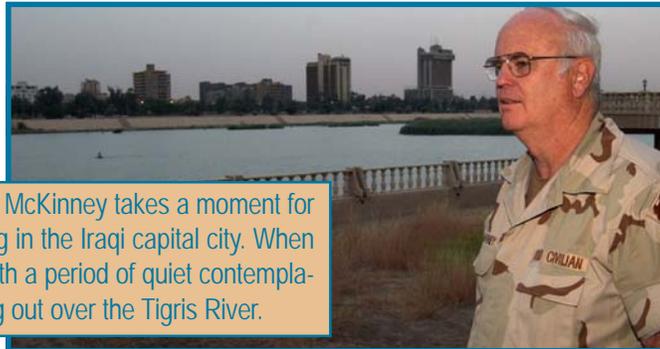
Warrior Ethos

I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.

successes throughout the district. Many of these successes can be attributed to our good project management teams. It is obvious the district has made great strides over the last few years in launching project management. It has not been easy and there has been much hard work in making this happen. Despite these strides, there are still ways we can improve PMBP in the district to make these processes take hold throughout the district and become the routine way we do business. We need to improve project management so projects are consistently done well across the district. Everyone

needs to think of themselves as part of a team and contribute. No team member should be left behind and not used as part of the team. We cannot afford to lose people. It is bad for productivity and morale. I expect district leaders to ensure no is left behind and all are a part of our team.

Thanks for all that you do for our Army, and Nation. I wish all District Team members the best for a well-deserved and enjoyable Holiday Season. My thoughts and prayers are with those deployed and away from their families during this season. Essayons!



Task Force RIO Logistics Chief Jim McKinney takes a moment for a final look early on his last morning in the Iraqi capital city. When possible, he began his mornings with a period of quiet contemplation. In Baghdad, he did this looking out over the Tigris River.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo by Alan Dooley

District Supply-Maintenance Officer returns from Iraq

Story and photos by Alan Dooley
Public Affairs Chief, Task Force RIO, Iraq

“It’s part of my job.” With that concise phrase, Fort Worth District Supply and Maintenance Officer Jim McKinney summed up why went to Iraq. In an interview in Baghdad, Iraq on his last night in that key Middle Eastern city, the 21-year Army veteran, who retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 3 Logistician talked about his mission and accomplishments.

“Part of my job is to deploy. That’s not just for natural disasters, but includes supporting military operations,” he repeated. And so on Aug. 4, he arrived at Kuwait International Airport. Five days later, he was airlifted into Baghdad. His mission was to set up a living and working environment for the main body of Task Force RIO (Restore Iraqi Oil) to move forward to the former Iraqi capital city.

“It was a little uncomfortable when we arrived,” he said. There were two of us from Camp Doha. The air conditioning didn’t work. Of course, we didn’t know that at the time, because the electricity was out too. We had a flushing toilet though, all we had to do was haul a bucket of water, pour it in, and it flushed,” McKinney reminisced.

Task Force RIO was assigned to help restore Iraq’s oil industry to its prewar benchmark capability of producing 2.5 million barrels of oil a day. This mission dictated how the war started – with ground troops overwhelming the southern oil field even before the “shock and awe” phase of the war

started to prevent them from possible destruction by a dying regime.

This was so important because oil underpins the entire Iraqi economy – generating more than 95 percent of its foreign earnings and being the starting point for virtually everything else in Iraqi economic life.

“We had to start twice,” McKinney reported. “We started out in what was called the IPC, or White House,” a building on the west bank of the Tigris River, he remembered. We were just getting ready to receive the main body from Kuwait when Corps Headquarters directed us to prepare to support an emerging Task Force – RIE, or Restore Iraqi Electricity – being sent to help get the lights turned on throughout Iraq.

“So we helped them get started in Baghdad and regrouped at the drawing board. We now have a “trailer park” that is being examined by many as the basic living unit for the foreseeable future in Iraq. We have people across the river with our contractor, Kellog, Brown and Root, living in a refurbished Sheraton Hotel. We have working spaces – good working spaces – and are all here and doing our jobs,” he said.

McKinney is perhaps most satisfied with the functional form that has been achieved for logistics support of Task Force RIO. RIO Commander, Brigadier General Robert Crear, who lauded him for staying on top of all logistics requirements, supported his opinion such that he never once had

Continued on next page

News you can use

Gridiron classic

The Army-Navy College Football Classic kickoff is at 4 p.m., Dec. 6 at the Lincoln Financial Stadium, Philadelphia, Pa. The Army-Navy football series has attracted nearly 7 million fans in its previous 102 editions, more than any other collegiate rivalry in American history. For more information call the U.S. Military Academy Public Affairs Office at (845) 938-2006

District Annual Pot-luck Dinner

The Fort Worth District Annual Pot-Luck dinner will be on Dec. 12, starting at 11:30 a.m. in room 4A14. Tickets are \$3 per person. Children Under 12 eat for free. Employees and adult guests must have tickets in order to eat. The tickets will be used for door prize drawings.

Spiral Cut Ham and Sliced Smoked Turkey will be served along with offerings from the pot-luck. Each person is requested to bring a covered dish.

Signup sheets are placed on 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors. For more information see your recreation representative.

Welcome!

Ricardo E. Torres, who goes by Rick, has joined the Contracting Division-Services



& Supply Branch as a Contract Specialist. Originally from

Carolina, Puerto Rico, Rick's first federal job was in 1991, as a member of the U.S. Navy. After his four-year enlistment he went back to Puerto Rico and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Puerto Rico where he was also a member of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard.

The Department of the Army hired him in their Contract Specialist Intern Program in 2001, Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia. He spent two years in the Directorate of Contracting learning the contracting processes. After graduating from the Intern Program, he knew that it was time for more challenging waters. His wife, Jessica, wanted to be closer to her sister who lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. With many opportunities in the area, Debbie Pulling from the Fort Worth District CT-S called him for an interview. "For once in my life I was going to have the perfect balance," said Rick. "Challenging work with room to grow and expand to different acquisition areas and a happy wife at home."

McKinney

Continued from previous page

to concern himself with any of the important issues of providing all the support necessary to keep an organization in the field throughout a nation the size of California.

"We support operations in the South at Basra, in the North at Kirkuk, and here in three locations in Baghdad," McKinney ticked off. "I think we have built a solid organization that blends two key elements: a

rear support element at Fort Worth, and our

in-country team." McKinney and his team reach back to Fort Worth at the least daily, for many of the Task Force's needs. "I don't think anyone else is doing it this way," he said. It is all the more amazing to see this team work when one realizes that it is comprised of logistics professionals from New York City to Japan.

Logistics used to be based on building a mountain of everything you might need, and then living off the accumulation. Today, McKinney reports, "We know how long it takes to ship something. We depend on it arriving just in time and it works." And there is little excess purchase and movement of material necessary.

"I'm real proud of another thing we've done, keeping a small logistics cell in Kuwait. The two people there meet incoming personnel at the airport, take them to breakfast and are the first face of Task Force RIO our new people meet. They also receive and expedite high priority equipment and supplies. Nobody else is doing this either," he said.

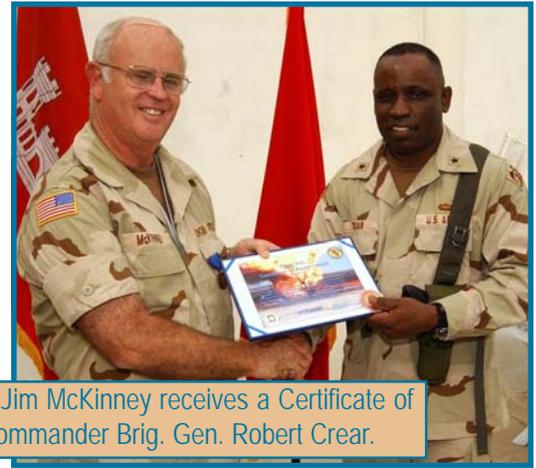
What does McKinney tell others who are considering volunteering to come to Iraq?

"I advise them to talk to their spouse. Get an agreement first. Then do it. Sure, there's an element of danger, but it's nowhere near as bad as it is being reported in the U.S. They never get to the story about the kid caught in the concertina wire that two of our people rescued and got medical care for.

"There's also a sense of amazement that you gain here. They mix concrete with two shovels, move it in what looks like wok pans and can build foundations amazingly quick. I watched a fellow break a shovel handle, look around at nearby trees, and selecting an appropriate branch, fashion a new handle so he could get on with his work. They do so much with so little.

"I've also had Iraqis apologize to me for the conduct of their fellow citizens and their misconduct," he said. "You have to come here, experience it and get the flavor. Then you can see the great promise of Iraq and feel your part in history. Yes, I advise them to talk it over with their families, and then to come and experience it for themselves."

McKinney will take two images back home to



Task Force RIO Logistics Chief Jim McKinney receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Task Force Commander Brig. Gen. Robert Crear.

Fort Worth with him.

"I gain a sense of peace in the early morning, sitting in my office and looking over the Tigris River as the eastern horizon lights up. It comes over me that I am in Baghdad, where much of the world's history began, looking out over the fabled Tigris."

McKinney told of his fascination with the Iraqi people's future as well. "I will always see them in my mind. I have talked to many who lived under Saddam's rule. For three decades they have suffered under uncertainty and for violating unknown rules – whatever he deemed to be an infraction. Any little thing – real or imagined – could get their ears cut off, a hand lopped off or worse. And this could be done to a whole family. That these people can arise from this is amazing," he said.

"Those are two images that will remain with me always – of peaceful beauty and incomprehensible and ugly cruelty.

"But things are changing," McKinney noted with hope. "We are buying time for them to happen. It can't happen over night. But slowly these people are relearning their right to their own ideas and their own action. They work so hard."

Finally, McKinney closed his views of Iraq by talking about the Soldiers there. "They are wonderful. I have seen them come in from the field for a day of rest and recreation. They are not loud, or vulgar. They are professional. Their attitudes, especially in light of their growing tours here, are remarkable. This says just an awful lot about the United States Army."

As Jim lifted off enroute to Fort Worth and home, he did so anticipating reunion with his family, all centered in the Fort Worth area. Looking back over three months in Iraq, McKinney concluded: "I don't mind having my name associated with anything I have done here. I did the best I could."

McKinney's work was recognized in a ceremony the day before he departed, by award of the prestigious Army Civilian Meritorious Service Award.

Contracting officer proud to serve, sign authorizations for Iraqi people

By Cheryl Hodge-Snead

Fort Worth District, Contracting Division

In March 2003, I volunteered for the FEST-M Team. Not because I was courageous, but because the Team continued attempts to find qualified Contracting Officers. I was originally reluctant, but felt that it was my duty to do so as I felt that this was the least I could do in support of the war and my country. The hardest part was the wait as my date for departure continued to be pushed forward. I was relieved that the war was being fought and won expeditiously, but every day was a day of sweat because I did not know where I would be tomorrow. When my final date was confirmed, it was such a relief because the unknown became the known and the last stronghold in Iraq was about to be captured by U.S. Forces. However, I still didn't know what to expect upon my arrival in Iraq.

I was provided the worst-case scenario of living in tents out in the field like the Soldiers. This would be hard, but I felt obligated to live up to my word. Arriving in CRC was the first step of preparation, awaking at 0400 hours to get in lines and wait for hours.

The sleeping arrangements of staying in an open bay with 200 females and community showers didn't make it better, but it was better than what I heard Iraq would be. I made it through the week of training and was now prepared for Iraq. The closer the plane came to the country, the faster my heart began to beat and I had to remind myself that if it was my time to go, at least I would go doing something that I believed was for a good cause.

I arrive in Kuwait awaiting my transportation to Iraq, but learned that I would remain in Kuwait. This made living in an open bay, sleeping on the top bunk and going outside to find showers and toilet facilities a blessing.

I didn't feel totally safe in Kuwait, but I felt somewhat safer as I would remain on a

secured facility guarded by U.S. Forces. I had no intentions of leaving the Camp.

The next day I learned that I would be traveling to Southern Iraq to attend a meeting with Iraqi officials. I took a deep breath and mentally prepared myself. I totally trusted in God to keep me and if I should die, I prayed that my soul God should take.

It was the people (U.S Forces, U.S. Civilians, U.S. Contractors, British Forces, Kuwaitis and Iraqis) working toward the same cause that immediately removed any concerns I had with death. The dynamics and diversity reminded me that I was not alone.

The comrades of restoring Iraqi infrastructure and helping the Iraqis was worth the risk. Just seeing the Iraqi people living out in the desert with very little food and water, no shoes in buildings without electricity, running water and

buildings in shambles reminded me of how blessed I am to be an American and my heart immediately went out to the people.

Their buildings reminded me of the shambles from the riots of the sixties, which left the U.S. communities with a similar appearance. The only difference was that the U.S. citizens relocated to better accommodations. The Iraqis only have the one choice and that is to stay and live with what they were left with. Something had to be done. I was proud to sign million dollar actions authorizing facility restorations, pipeline repairs and fuel importation.

I wish I could sign a document to stop the killing. It would be nice to have the authority to sign such a document, a stop work order to the killing. However, the killing was beyond my authority and rest with those who are doing the killing, but at least I knew that some child somewhere was enjoying running water and hot meals because of my signature on a document. I wish I could do something to stop the violence, but this is up to the Iraqi people.

My heart goes out to the families who have lost someone as a result of the war and I hope that we all will come to understand that their deaths are not in vain.

Just seeing the Iraqi people living out in the desert with very little food and water, no shoes in buildings without electricity, running water and buildings in shambles reminded me of how blessed I am to be an American



Cheryl Hodge-Snead arrived to the Fort Worth District on Nov. 18, 2002, to work as a Team Leader for Contracting Division, Supply/Services Branch. She has 18 years of Civil Service, beginning as a Clerk Typist in 1985 working for Directorate of Contracting, Fort Ord, Calif. Her contracting experience includes Procurement Technician, Purchasing Agent, Contract Administrator, Contract Specialist, Team Lead-A/E Europe District, Business Operation Manager-Regional Contracting Office, Wuerzburg, Germany and most recently in atemporary assignment as Administrative Contracting Officer, FEST-M RIO, Iraq.

The Navajo Code Talker's Dictionary

When a Navajo code talker received a message, what he heard was a string of seemingly unrelated Navajo words. The code talker first had to translate each Navajo word into its English equivalent, then used only the first letter of the English equivalent in spelling an English word. Thus, the Navajo words "wol-la-chee" (ant), "be-la-sana" (apple) and "tse-nill" (axe) all stood for the letter "a." One way to say the word "Navy" in Navajo code would be "tsah (needle) wol-la-chee (ant) ah-keh-di- glini (victor) tsah-ah-dzoh (yucca)."

Most letters had more than one Navajo word representing them. Not all words had to be spelled out letter by letter. The developers of the original code assigned Navajo words to represent about 450 frequently used military terms that did not exist in the Navajo language. Several examples: "besh- lo" (iron fish) meant "submarine," and "dah-he- tih-hi" (hummingbird) meant "fighter plane"

Research by Alexander Molnar Jr., U.S. Marine Corps/U.S. Army (Ret.)
Prepared by the Navy & Marine Corps WWII Commemorative Committee.

Cherokee Storyteller shares traditional tales and mysteries of the world at celebration

Story and photo by Edward Rivera
Fort Worth District, Public Affairs Office

Although we weren't gathered around a fire within a log hut, safe from the snakes and



Gregg Howard, Cherokee Storyteller, captured a packed room with traditional stories about mysteries of the world and American Indian history.

careful not to distract the birds from their journeys, if one closed his or her eyes, the storytellers voice could almost take you there.

Gregg Howard, a Cherokee Storyteller visited the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building Nov. 20 as part of an American Indian/Native American history celebration. The stories he told, which have been passed on for generations, explained why spotted owls have spots and why the Raven is black. The Cherokee stories tell us why the rabbit's tail is short and why the leaves change color before falling to the ground.

Mixed in with his stories was the history of a proud people and what they had endured over the years. He also spoke of his desire to continue to teach the Cherokee language to instill pride and bolster the self-esteem of American Indians.

"Without your language, you don't know who you are," said Howard. "Who would you be if you were told you could not speak English anymore. Your language tells you who you are, and to be proud."

According to the Cherokee, all the animals could speak their language, so they understood each other and lived together peacefully. Imagine if we all

spoke Cherokee.

Cultural values drive Native Americans to serve

When the 20th century came to a close, there were nearly 190,000 Native American military veterans. It is well recognized that, historically, Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups. The reasons behind this disproportionate contribution are complex and deeply rooted in traditional American Indian culture.

In many respects, Native Americans are no different from others who volunteer for military service. They do, however, have distinctive cultural values that drive them to serve their country. One such value is their proud warrior tradition.

In part, the warrior tradition is a willingness to engage the enemy in battle. This characteristic has been clearly demonstrated by the courageous deeds of Native Americans in combat. However, the warrior tradition is best exemplified by the following qualities said to be inherent to most, if

not all, Native American societies: strength, honor, pride, devotion and wisdom. These qualities make a perfect fit with military tradition.



American Indian Soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen have fought heroically in all of this century's wars and armed conflicts. They have not only been formally recognized for their bravery through military decoration but through anecdotal observation as well.

The Medal of Honor

Throughout history, American Indians have been among those Soldiers to be distinguished by receiving the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, which is awarded by Congress for military heroism "above and beyond the call of duty."

Five Native Americans in World War II, three from the Korean War and 16 during the period of the Indian Wars exhibited extraordinary bravery in the face of the enemy and, in many cases, made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Meet the “nine young men from kentucky”

Meriwether Lewis set out to find the best possible men he could and recruit them to join his expedition. The criteria for the positions were no easy things to come by; the men were expected to be excellent hunters with a variety of skills that would ensure their survival in the wilderness. They must be brave, unwed, and undeniably healthy.

William Clark was put in charge of actually recruiting the men to meet Lewis’ criteria and went to Louisville and Clarksville to do so. Over one third of the party’s permanent members were from that surrounding area and it is believed that as many as half of the expedition members were Kentuckians or had close Kentuckiana ties, these men became known as the “nine young men from Kentucky”.

Charles Floyd, Sergeant

Floyd was born in Kentucky, some time afterwards his family decided to move to Clarksville, Indiana. At the young age of 18 he was named the first constable of Clarksville Township, and enlisted into the army August 1, 1803. Floyd was the first member to join the expedition, however, he also became the first and only member to die during the expedition, the cause being none other than what Lewis and Clark described as “bilious choleric” which is presently known today as a ruptured appendix. He is best known for his detailed, factual journals concerning land quality and soil conditions. Floyd was buried in Sioux City, Iowa close to the spot where he died in August 20, 1804. His gravesite consists of a 100-foot high sandstone masonry obelisk, which was dedicated to him on Memorial Day in 1901. It is the second largest in size, the Washington Monument being the first.

John Ordway, Sergeant

Born and raised in New Hampshire, John Ordway was responsible for providing a detailed account and descriptions about Native American life. He was considered to be one of the few well-educated men on the expedition. He was responsible for issuing provisions, commanding the group while Lewis and Clark were away, keeping all records, and appointing guard duties.

Nathaniel Pryor, Sergeant

When Lewis began his expedition it was decided that only unmarried men would be

allowed to enlist. However, Nathaniel Pryor became the only exception to this rule. Pryor enlisted on October 20, 1803 and became a sergeant. Pryor was described as a man of impeccable character with the ability to accomplish anything.

William Bratton, Private

Born in Virginia but raised in Kentucky, Bratton became a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition on October 20, 1803. He was superb woodsman and hunter, but he was most useful as a blacksmith and an even better gunsmith.

John Colter, Private

Born near Staunton, Virginia in 1774 then moved at the age of five to Maysville, Kentucky where he was raised. He enlisted on October 15, 1803 and was selected by Lewis to join the expedition because of his

remarkable hunting skills and later became a part of the Permanent Party.

Joseph and Reuben Field, Privates

Reuben Field was born in 1772 in Culpepper County, Virginia, while his brother Joseph was born two years later in 1774, however, their family quickly moved to Kentucky where the boys were to be raised. They enlisted on August 1, 1803 and became the earliest members to join the expedition.

George Gibson, Private

George Gibson, who enlisted on October 26, 1803, was one of the two fiddle players in the expedition and also possessed sign language skills.

George Shannon, Private

George Shannon was born in 1787 and was the youngest member of the party. He enlisted on October 19, 1803.

John Shields, Private

Born in 1769 in Harrisonburg, Virginia. At the age of 34 was recruited by Lewis and enlisted on October 19, 1803 becoming the expeditions oldest enlisted member. Shields possessed immaculate blacksmith, gunsmith, huntsmen, and craftsmanship skills; he was also a general mechanic. The success Shields had with all of these things were astonishing, there are over 70 references in journals made about Shields’ success with hunting.

Source: <http://www.lewisandclark1803.com>

1803

Lewis and Clark timeline

January 18 - In secret communication to Congress, Jefferson seeks authorization for expedition – first official exploration of unknown spaces undertaken by United States government. Appropriation of \$2,500 requested. (Final cost will be \$38,000.)

Spring- Meriwether Lewis, now picked as commander, is sent to Philadelphia for instruction in botany, zoology, celestial navigation, medicine from nation’s leading scientists. Also begins buying supplies to outfit the expedition. Lewis writes to former army comrade, William Clark, inviting him to share command of expedition. Clark accepts.

July 4- Louisiana Purchase announced. For \$15 million, Jefferson more than doubles the size of United States: 820,000 square miles for 3 cents an acre. The next day, Lewis leaves Washington.

Summer - Lewis oversees construction of a big keelboat in Pittsburgh, takes it down the Ohio River, picks up Clark and some recruits along the way. Clark brings along York, a slave. Lewis brings a Newfoundland dog, Seaman, he purchased for 20 dollars.

Fall/Winter - Expedition establishes Camp Wood (also called Camp Dubois) on east bank of Mississippi, upstream from St. Louis. More men recruited and trained.

Did you know?

The Whooping Crane is a member of the crane family and it is found only in North America. It is the tallest bird in North America and our largest wading bird. Adults are mostly white with black wing tips, black facial markings, and bright red, bare heads. Both sexes are similar in appearance though the male is larger. Whooping Cranes, like other members of the crane family, engage in an ancient and dramatic courtship dance.

The Whooping Crane is one of our rarest birds with a population once as low as fifteen. The Whooping Crane requires fresh water marshes and it is the loss of this habitat to farming and other uses that has put these birds at risk. There is one breeding population of Whoopers left in North America. Its breeding grounds are in or near the Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada. The population's wintering grounds are in or near Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas.

The total population of Whoopers is now thought to number about 200 - one half in the wild breeding population of Canada with the others split between captive populations and the Grey Lake population.

The Whooping Crane was listed as Endangered in the U.S. in 1967 and in Canada in 1978.

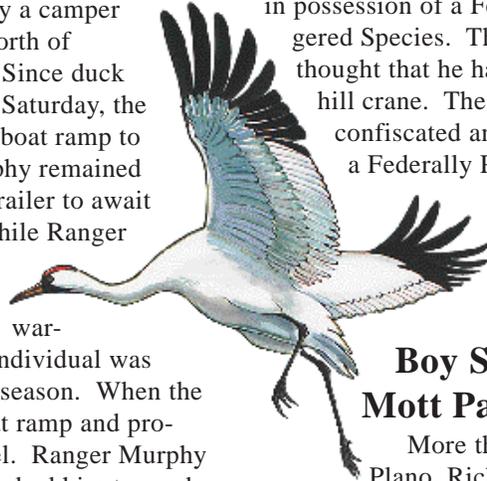
Around the Lakes

Bardwell Lake

Whooping Crane Killed

On Friday, Nov. 14, Ranger James Chambers and Recreation Specialist James Murphy were contacted by a camper about someone hunting north of Waxahachie Creek Park. Since duck season did not open until Saturday, the rangers drove to the park boat ramp to investigate. Ranger Murphy remained there with a vehicle and trailer to await the return of the owner while Ranger Chambers went to talk to the camper. The Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden was notified that an individual was hunting waterfowl out of season. When the owner returned to the boat ramp and proceeded to trailer his vessel. Ranger Murphy approached the man and asked him to produce the required Bardwell Lake hunting permit.

The man stated that he was unaware that a permit was required to hunt at Bardwell and stated that he would acquire one as soon as possible. He further stated that he had killed three ducks. Murphy spoke with man until the arrival of the game warden. The game warden informed the man he was in violation of state game laws. The warden asked if he had any additional wildlife in his possession. The man stated that he had only killed three ducks. Upon inspection, the Warden discovered one whooping crane carcass that was



concealed inside a camouflage tarp that was inside a duffel bag in the bed of the man's truck. The Warden informed him that he was in possession of a Federally Protected Endangered Species. The man stated that he thought that he had killed a goose or sand hill crane. The man's guns and boat were confiscated and he was cited for killing a Federally Protected Endangered Species. Penalties for this violation can range up to \$250,000 in fines and 6 months in jail.

Boy Scout Camporee at Mott Park

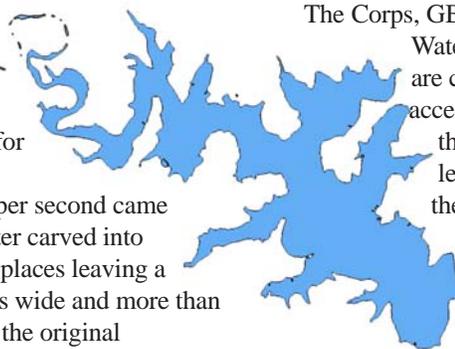
More than 500 Scouts from Plano, Richardson, Frisco, and North Dallas held their annual North District Fall Camporee in Mott Park last weekend. Rangers James Chambers, Scott Tackett, James Murphy and maintenance worker Rusty Hilliard directed groups of scouts in various service projects. These included cutting and removing several large mesquite trees for a prairie restoration project, shoreline cleanup of a popular beach area, and repairing impact zones around campsites. All work was done in about 2 hours and had a value of \$3,040.

Canyon Lake

GBRA tours Gorge

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority board members recently took a guided tour of a gorge formed when a July 2002 flood caused the Canyon Dam spillway to overflow for the first time. At peak flow, 70,000 cubic feet of water per second came down the spillway. The water carved into the limestone for a mile, in places leaving a gorge several hundred yards wide and more than 50 feet deep, all the way to the original Guadalupe River channel.

When the water receded, a gorgeous canyon was left. Several springs bubble from the rocks, forming a small creek that splashes down waterfalls into a series of clear pools. The land where the gorge is located is owned by the U.S.



Army Corps of Engineers, and at the moment is off-limits to the public.

The Corps, GBRA officials and the area's Water Oriented Recreation District are coming up with plans to make it accessible. All the agencies said they would like to find a way to let the public into the gorge. But the terrain is difficult, and officials say liability and environmental concerns are tough problems.

The gorge features huge limestone boulders and sheer cliffs, which would complicate the evacuation of injured visitors. Officials also want to protect the pristine canyon from being trashed. The best chance for public access appears to be guided tours.

Whitney Lake

Success at Whitney Lake physically challenged hunt

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Whitney Lake hosted the second annual hunting event for the physically challenged on Nov. 7 and 8. This annual event is organized to provide a quality outdoor experience for people who may not have the opportunity otherwise.

Hunters in this year's event included: John Blaine, John Schneider, Zachary Gardner, Guy Leatherwood, Cody Bryant, and Max Bench.

Dreary weather which blew in the day before the hunt helped make the event successful. Two bucks were taken the first night of the event by Blaine and Schnieder.

"It was awesome," said Zachary Gardner, who shot a pig at about 110 yards. "That pig came out three different times and I wasn't giving him another chance." At last year's event, Gardner shot a doe in the neck from 206 yards by pulling the trigger with his toe.

Volunteers in this year's event included: Wesley Merrill, John Schneider Jr., Brett Gardner, Barry Merrill, Laurie Bryant, and Todd Williams. The Corps of Engineers also had Tom Webb, Rob Newman and Brady Dempsey to assist with the hunt.

"We had an absolute blast," says volunteer Todd Williams, "although some went home empty handed, it was great just getting out there."

A special thanks goes out to the volunteers, community and businesses for their support.

A complimentary shoulder mount provided by Eddy Green of Southwestern Wildlife Taxidermy was awarded to John Schneider of Laguna Park for the best deer taken.

Wilkerson Feed of Meridian/Whitney donated corn to bait the hunting locations and White Bluff Resort on Lake Whitney donated ADA accessible accommodations for hunters that traveled from out of town.

Steiner Valley Ranch manager Jay Harris, provided their hunter check station for the event headquarters.

"Steiner Valley Ranch's hospitality was outstanding," says event coordinator Brady Dempsey. "Jay and the ranch hands very helpful... Jay's wife Glenda even made brownies and shared sausage with all the participants."

This year, six large, wheelchair accessible deer blinds were built by the Walnut Springs High School FFA and Owen McKeel, a retired U.S. Marine who volunteers his time for special projects for the Corps.

The hunters and the Corps of Engineers would like to express their gratitude to these businesses and people. "The support and assistance was invaluable and came from the sincere desire to help," says Dempsey. "They helped make this hunt something special."

Any school, business, or civic group wanting to be part of next years hunt, call Brady Dempsey at



Rob Newman, standing second from left, Fort Worth District Environmental Specialist, and Tom Webb, standing center, Whitney Lake Power House operator, pictured with participants and volunteers of the 2nd annual deer hunt for the physically challenged held at Whitney Lake, take a break from the action to snap a group photo.

Safety tips for the holidays

The holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends and give thanks for our many blessings. Holidays can also be a time when many mishaps occur. Take a moment to identify the hazards associated with the task you are about to undertake. One idea to help us think about what some of the risks are is to develop a Holiday Safety Checklist. Below are a few helpful hints to get you started:

- Holiday food preparation and storage
- Travel
- Alcoholic beverages (Don't drink and drive)
- Fire safety
- Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Fresh Christmas trees and lighting
- Safety while shopping
- Keep decorations and small ornaments away from small children
- Holiday stress
- Firework displays

Whether cooking, shopping, decorating or driving, be safe in all you do. Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season. For any information on holiday safety, call the District Safety Office at (817) 886-1317.

Visit the Wellness Program web page for helpful information on holiday health and fitness at:

<http://intranet.swf.usace.army.mil/Distinfo/Safety/Wellness.asp>

Farewell

Dwight Quarrles retires

Please join Fort Worth District Operations Division in wishing Dwight a very happy retirement Dec. 19 in room 4A14H from 2 to 4 p.m.

As Chief of Operations Division, he has provided great leadership and valuable mentoring to a large workforce, and he will be greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to have been under his guidance.

Condolences

The Fort Worth District expresses its sympathy and support to:

Henry Kasten (EM), whose sister, Karen Aronowitz, died Nov. 11 after losing her battle with cancer, She was 51.

Rick Ruiz, an Architect in Design Branch whose father, Jose M. Ruiz De Porras, suffered a heart attack and subsequently died soon after Rick's vacation arrival in Puerto Rico. He was 79 years old.

Archer T. "Tommy" Spear, age 82, of Weatherford, died early Saturday morning, Nov. 22, 2003, in a local hospital. Archer was a former member of the Corps Family.

Team of the Month- September

Fort Sam Houston Enhanced Use Leasing Team

Congratulations to the Fort Sam Houston Enhanced Use Leasing Team for being selected as the Fort Worth District September Team of the Month!

Despite many diverse obstacles in gaining approval at various levels of Government to move forward with these unique leases, the Project Delivery Team pulled together and successfully received congressional and Office of Management and Budget approval of three leases for 17 years in a private EUL building.

These leases were the first ever approved by OMB in a EUL building that exceeded a 15-year term. These actions resulted in a change in policy at OMB that will allow additional Army tenants to occupy space in EUL buildings.

In July 2001, the Army successfully brought to fruition the first enhanced use lease project at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The project consisted of the transfer by lease of the Old Brook Army Medical Center and Beach Pavilion to the private sector. This transfer resulted in a reduction of approximately \$45,000,000 in Army remediation and maintenance cost. The eventual success of this venture was further realized when The Fort Sam Enhanced Use Leasing Team relocated three major commands into these facilities: U.S. Army South, U.S. Army Medical Information Systems and Service Agency and the Southwestern Regional Office of the Installation Management Agency. These three commands will be occupying approximately 224,000 square feet of office space at a value of more than \$5.43 million per year.

Many obstacles had to be overcome. The Army had never done an enhanced use lease to a private contractor and the Office of Management and Budget had never approved a Government lease back of a EUL building on an annual basis. The contractor required a 20-year lease and OMB had only approved a maximum of 15-year leases. Also, there was a great amount of congressional interest in the USARSO move. Other congressional members were seeking a USARSO relocation into their state. Consequently, the team's progress was being presented weekly to USACE Headquarters, ACSIM, ASA-I&E, OMB and the Armed Services Committee. These leases included tenant-finish out cost in excess of \$9 million. This was also new territory for SWF in that Headquarters from ACSIM, ASA I&E, IMA and USACE had to be convinced that OMA was the correct funding for an EUL

Team members

**Project Manager
Rocky Lee, Real Estate Division**

**Stan Graham, RE
Randy Roberts, RE
Ken Price, RE
Doris Wilkerson, RE
Debra Pulling, CT
Cathy Nelson, CT
Leslie Guy, CT
Maj. Brad Westergren, CT
Walter Hylton, HQs RE
Jann Orr, RE
Martha Roper, RE
Gene Kastanek, SWD RE
Nancy Boyd, SWD RE**

building.

The team successfully received congressional and OMB approval of three leases for 17 years in a private EUL building. These leases were the first ever approved by OMB in a EUL building that exceeded a 15-year term. These actions resulted in a change in policy at OMB that will allow additional Army tenants to occupy space in EUL buildings. These actions will lead to further reductions of the Army's real property cost and prevent the deterioration of other Army properties.

The team delivered in 10 months. These types of leases takes General Services Administration over two years for approval and that is without any EUL issues. Therefore, considering what had to be overcome, On Time Performance was excellent. GSA would have charged the client approximately an 8 percent commission for these services. That would have amounted to over \$400,000. The team completed all three leases at a cost of \$180,000.

This whole process was a new learning experience for all involved. The clients had no idea what obstacles were involved. In the beginning, the client and contractor considered USACE as an obstacle, but by completion, they learned that USACE was the only group that could have gotten this process done. This team is now the leaders in EUL and is sharing this knowledge to the USACE community.

FUDS Hazardous, Toxic & Radioactive Waste Team

Congratulations to the FUDS Hazardous, Toxic, & Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Team for being selected as our Fort Worth District October Team of the Month! The FUDS OE Team is working toward a cleaner and safer environment for thousands of landowners, and has improved communications and relationships between a broad range of local, State, and Federal agencies, Tribal Nations, special interest groups, and the public at large. The team members' cooperative attitudes and "can do" spirit epitomize the very essence of teamwork and are worthy of special recognition.

Leaking electrical transformers, radioactive waste, old landfills, explosives waste, and unsafe buildings are just some of the hazards the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District FUDS Hazardous, Toxic, & Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Team handles on a daily basis. "FUDS" is the acronym for Formerly Used Defense Sites, a program established under the 1986 Defense Environmental Restoration Act. Under the FUDS Program, the Corps cleans up old Department of Defense (DoD) sites contaminated with HTRW and with unexploded ordnance (UXO), and removes old buildings that have become safety hazards. The Corps' customers are the present landowners of these former DoD properties – States, Tribal Nations, other Federal agencies, local municipalities, and individual citizens. There are over 600 FUDS sites in Texas and Louisiana, many over 10,000 acres in size, with a combined cleanup cost estimated at over a billion dollars.

Cleaning up these contaminated properties requires extensive coordination and communication with the public at large, and with a host of public agencies at all levels of government. This past year the FUDS Team has worked with the US Congress, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Historical Commission, Louisiana Department of Environmental Protection, Lower Colorado River Authority, several cities and counties, and thousands of landowners and residents. SWF's FUDS HTRW Team maintains constant open dialogue with these stakeholders, seeking to build consensus opinions among the parties on the complex issues of cleanup goals and methods. The FUDS Team has achieved success in its mission through effective 2-way communications with public agencies and the public, and through effective teamwork.

Specific accomplishments of the FUDS

HTRW Team this past year include achieving regulatory closure of the former James Connally AFB and Perrin AFB low-level radioactive waste disposal sites, and the former DeRidder AAF landfill in LA. We studied the former Five Points OLF site in Arlington TX and showed that there was no significant contamination from that site being used as a WWII practice bombing target. We characterized the former Laredo AFB shotgun range and landfill sites, and showed that there was no contamination that exceeded health-based levels established by the State. We held emotionally-charged public meetings in both these communities to ease the residents' concerns over living in these areas. The FUDS HTRW team coordinated studies with TCEQ of the former Aloe AAF and Cuddihy NAS skeet ranges. The team inventoried the structural remains of 7,000 buildings and 500 man-holes from the former Camp Claiborne that are now in the Kisatchie National Forest. It looked for explosive residues in the former Camp Swift artillery impact areas, and prepared groundwater monitoring reports on the former Foster, Bryan, and Perrin AFB landfills. They studied contamination at the former Camp Howze, Camp Bowie, and Harlingen NAS landfills, and at the former Hitchcock NAS blimp base. The team answered a Congressional inquiry, and two audits from GAO and the DoDIG. It finalized the first Texas Statewide FUDS Management Action Plan, and it inventoried two hundred potential new FUDS properties in Texas and Louisiana. The FUDS HTRW Team accomplished all these things while achieving 113% of its obligation target, and exhibiting the essence of true regional teamwork. The Team held several in-person and virtual team meetings, line item reviews, and budget workshops to coordinate the activities of Fort Worth, Tulsa, Rock Island, and Saint Louis Districts, plus Southwest Division, Huntsville Center, the USEPA, the LA Department of Environmental Protection, and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality.

The FUDS OE Team is working toward a cleaner and safer environment for thousands of landowners, and has improved communications and relationships between a broad range of local, State, and Federal agencies, Tribal Nations, special interest groups, and the public at large. The team members' cooperative attitudes and "can do" spirit epitomize the very essence of teamwork, and are worthy of special recognition.

Team members

Janice Alexander
Gail Anderson
Brandi Betts
Richard Bingham
Tim Bohannon
Alix Borrok (MVS)
Brian Condikey
Mike Dace (MVS)
Dan Davis (SWT)
Jean Dillon
Jane Holt-Duecaster
Melanie Ellis
Katie Fitzgerald
Dwayne Ford
Donald Garnett
Dennis Gilmore (MVS)
Robbie Gilstrap
Rick Hack
William James (MVS)
David P. Jones (SWT)
Dava Kaitala
Ken Kebbell (SWT)
Amie Kirkpatrick
Eric Kirwin
Jim Klutz
John Lambert (SWT)
Judy Marsicano
Frank McStay (SWD)
Gary Miller (USEPA)
Madeline Morgan
Cathy Moss
Randy Niebuhr
Allan Posnick (TCEQ)
Marsha Potts
Bill Sargent (HNC)
Dave Scotto (SWD)
Emily Seidel
Pat Slutz
Brenda Smith
Rick Smith (SWT)
Doris Steere
Mark "Barry" Vercoe
Scott Weber (SWD)
Carol Wies (SWT)
Greg Williams (SWT)
Theresa Williams (MVS)
Donna Zoeller (MVS)

Safety awards

Continued from Page 1

who tours the country speaking on safety issues.

Sam Adkins, Chief of Engineering and Construction, presented quarterly awards recognizing small and large contract divisions. Zero Lost Time Awards were given to six different contractors who reported more than 10,000 exposed man hours with no lost time accidents. The Quarter Million Hour Club Member Award for reporting more than 250,000 exposed man hours with no lost time accidents went to contractor J.D. Abrams, L.P. for two contracts at Fort Bliss.

The Annual Lone Star Award, which is presented to individuals who recognize and correct safety hazards, went to Alex

Alvarado of Southwestern Area Office and Neal Morgan of Templeton Construction.

The Annual Contract Award Winner for small contract went to USA Environmental Group, Inc. and Hensel Phelps Construction for the large contract.

According to Madeline Morgan, Chief of Safety, it was a good beginning and a good building block for the future.



Sam Adkins, Chief of Engineering and Construction, presents Hasan Rabah, USA Environmental Group, Inc., the Annual Contract Award Winner for small contract.



Sam Adkins, Chief of Engineering and Construction, presents Guy Mills, Hensel Phelps Construction, the Annual Contract Award winner for large contract.

Photos by Melanie Ellis

Got an idea for a story?

If you have a story idea or have taken a neat picture and want to submit it to the Dispatch, you can do so by sending it to the editor at the address listed on Page 2.

When making submissions, please include the complete name, title and work section of the author or photographer. Also, ensure that everyone in the articles or photographs are completely identified.

If submitting an item of interest from another source such as a website, magazine or other publication, it is important that a source is included with the submission so proper credit is given to the creators.

Fort Polk members get awards

The Fort Polk Resident Office presented four awards Nov. 4 to team members for their contributions in supporting the year-end effort at Fort Polk. The final year-end total for Fort Polk was more than \$64 million in contract amounts and more than \$69 million in total funds received. This includes all IDIQ Task Orders, MATOC Tasks Orders for ACP's, Fence and Barracks HVAC and \$28 million for the Digital Multi-Purpose Battle Area Course contract. It also includes \$1.4 million to fund the Baker contract for GIS and mapping support.



Gary Westby, Eastern Area Office, receives the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from Kurt Floyd, the Fort Polk Assistant Resident Engineer.



Bob Williams receives a Commander's Coin and buck from Kurt Floyd, the Fort Polk Assistant Resident Engineer, for his year-end efforts.



Steve Sherrill receives Commander's Coin and Buck from Kurt Floyd, Fort Polk Assistant Resident Engineer.



Toni Schermerhorn receives the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from Breck Graves, the Ft. Polk Resident Engineer.