



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Galveston District

# The Sand Castle

*“A newsletter by and for the employees of the Galveston District”*

Volume 20

Number 6

**INSIDE:**

Headquarters: Update on Operation Rio pg. 2

Commander's Column pg. 2

FWP Presents - Dress For Success pg. 4

LDP: Consider Utilizing Training To Enhance More Than Just Your Public Speaking pg. 4

EXTRA! Meet the Newest Members of Galveston District pg. 4

Corps Welcomes Summer Hires pg. 5

Update: On How You Can Help Our Soldiers, Including A Letter From One pg. 5

Regulatory Teaches the Importance of Wetlands to Local School pg. 6

New Column: Life After the Corps pg. 6

A Blast From the Past: Retiree Day pg. 6

Personal Flotation Devices: A Testimonial pg. 7

Seamoor Visits Kemah pg. 7

Galveston District Joins In Juneteenth Celebration pg. 7

Word Search pg. 7

Engineer Day 2003 pg. 8

- Distinguished Civilian Employee
- Why Celebrate Engineer Day?
- Engineer of the Year
- Employee of the Year
- Regulator of the Year
- Service Awards
- Special Awards
- Collages of Engineer Day

Wellness: Skin Cancer pg. 12

Blood Donors: The Gift of Life pg. 12

Castle Comments pg. 12

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- July 4  
HOLIDAY
- July 9  
PRB
- Van Winkle's Retirement
- August 20-22  
GICA Conference  
New Orleans, La.

## Norma Has Finally Come Home!

Norma Sendejas-Garcia is home from Guam. She left in mid December, answering the call for help after devastating Typhoon Pongsona that ravished the Pacific territory on December 8, 2002.

Declared a disaster area by President George W. Bush, the island lost all electricity, water, and telephones. Winds of up to 155 miles per hour, waves up

to ten meters, or about thirty-three feet, and torrential downpours tore across the small island. “The extensive damage was heartbreaking” said Sendejas- Garcia. Many homes were destroyed or totally swept away. There were cars stacked on top of each other, huge busses lay on their sides, and light poles were broken in half.

On the night of her arrival there was no electricity, therefore, no air conditioning. “We had to sleep with the hotel room and patio doors open to get some air circulation.” She said. “It was very hot.”

While in Guam, Norma worked with over three hundred Corps of Engineers and Federal Emergency Management

See Norma's Home on page 2 . .

## TCEQ Presents Award to HGNC Project

Dalton Krueger was on hand May 6 to see the Port of Houston Authority receive the Government Award for its part in the construction and the environmental restoration features that are as part of the Houston-Galveston Navigation Channel Project. Krueger is the Corps' project manager assigned to this project.

The Government Award was presented at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality awards ceremony held in Austin, Texas.

Environmental features include bird islands, saltwater marsh, oyster reef, offshore beneficial-use berm and numerous other environmental features.

The Port of Houston is the local sponsor of the project.



Justin Tirpak, son of Sharon Tirpak, climbs around during Engineer Day.

## Happy Birthday to Us!

Awards, hot dogs, hamburgers, and fun in the sun were what happened at this year's Galveston District Engineer Day!

Col. Waterworth gave the opening remarks at the awards ceremony on June 13th that started promptly at 9:00 a.m. in the Jadwin building.

“What a beautiful day for such a special event,” said Col. Waterworth. Col. Waterworth presented the service awards,

special awards and of course the top awards: Engineer of the Year that went to Nancy Young; Regulator of the Year was awarded to Andy Williams; Employee of the Year was awarded to Mark Lumen; and Distinguished Civilian Employee of the Year was awarded to former Deputy Engineer, George Rothen.

For a list of all the awards and photos, please go to page 8 of the newsletter and enjoy!

## CO2 Training Equals “No Clowning” Around Galveston District



Msg. Robin Bell and Col. Waterworth

On May 28, 2003, MSG Robin Bell presented the district with “No Clowning” - Care of Others (CO2). Bell informed everyone that CO2 is not a training program at all; it is supposed to be group discussions about issues and complaints. The Corps has an obligation to foster a positive climate and eliminate harass-

ment. People need to be treated with dignity and respect.

The group discussions should be in groups of no more than 10-15 people. Small group discussions are beneficial. In a large setting no one likes to speak up, give opinions, or bring up problems. Small groups enhance awareness and sensitivity. Participants can articulate their opinions, attitudes and beliefs in a more inclusive environment.

CO2 is not a “cure-all” however. It is to recognize issues and concerns and allow individuals to handle them

expeditiously. We do NOT have “problems,” they are “issues and concerns!”

For CO2 to be effective, the participants need to focus on the issue at hand and not wander off to another topic. Completely discuss one topic at a time. Each section in the district needs to participate in CO2 on a quarterly basis. One of these quarters should use diversity as the topic.

If you have any questions, please contact Rose Caballero at 409-766-3920 or the website at [www.odcsper.army.mil](http://www.odcsper.army.mil).



Brig. Gen. Crear drawing the first oil into a water bottle.



## The Sand Castle

[www.swg.usace.army.mil](http://www.swg.usace.army.mil)

*A newsletter for and by  
the employees of the  
Galveston District*

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please include an address and phone number on all letters. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity, style, and space and to use them electronically and in print.

Mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1229, Galveston,  
TX. 77553-1229.

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## Headquarters: Update on Operation Rio

Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers

Now that major combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom is behind us, much hard work lies ahead. Not since World War II has the United States taken on a rebuilding task of this magnitude.

I recently returned from a visit to Kuwait and Iraq and saw the great work being done to get Iraq's infrastructure up and running. It's evident that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a vital part of the stabilization and reconstruction efforts. It's very much One Team, One Fight, as Corps

employees and military members work side by side. The Corps is supporting tactical forces and DoD's Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance by helping to restore Iraq's oil, electrical power and hydrology infrastructure to full operation. Also, we are now supporting the U.S. Agency for International Development by construction oversight, inspection and reporting functions.

I continue to be inspired and impressed by the overwhelming response of Corps employees who volunteered to deploy. To date, about 400 of your Corps

brothers and sisters have been in the region, and many more of you are waiting for your turn. I ask that you keep our deployed employees in your thoughts. And if it's in your culture, please say a prayer for them. Winning a war is hard, but winning the peace is just as difficult. All of you can be justifiably proud that through your efforts much progress is being made in transforming Iraq into a free and peaceful nation. Keep up the great work. Essayons!

## Commander's Column

It's going to be a hot summer and I'm not talking about the weather.

Two years ago, when I first arrived in Galveston District, I could see a number of high profile projects to coming to culmination on my watch. It was going happen in the summer of 2003.

We have completed several so far: the Environmental Impact Study for the Texas City Container Facility was completed and the application approved. Sharon Tirpak was the lead and her Project Delivery Team did a great job. We recently completed a Partnership Coordination Agreement with the City of Corpus Christi to build Packery Channel, a storm damage reduction and eco-system restoration project. With the hard work of Carl Anderson and Carolyn Murphy, the district was able to meet the city's VERY aggressive schedule.

Just to mention one more project, the Chiefs Report for the Corpus Christi deepening project was signed by Lt. Gen. Flowers. It was critical to obtain a completed report in early June or it would not make the WRDA 03 appropriations (if there is one). Once again, Carl and Carolyn's team pulled off what I don't think any other district could have done as quickly and as efficiently.

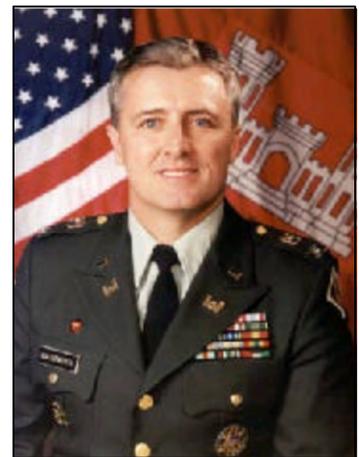
The reward for all this hard and aggressive work is partners, stakeholders and communities that greatly appreciate the Galveston Engineer District. I continually get phone calls from mayors, congressional members, port authorities, citizens and others thanking the district for its hard work. The great reputation of the Galveston Engineer District is growing every day because of what you do. Thank you.

BUT, the hot summer is not over. Bayport application, VT98 archeological study plan, Laguna Madre dredge material disposal plan, PMBP, P2, Functional Area Assessments, and strategic out sourcing are just a few of many issues for us to complete. So keep up the great work.

As with every summer we have brought summer-hires on board. For many, this is only the first or second time they have been introduced to work or to the US Army Corps of Engineers. So, make a great impression on them. Summer hires should have challenging work and grow to understand the importance of the Galveston District to our communities, the State of Texas and the Nation.

I hope you had the opportunity to participate in Retiree Day; we were able to bring in retired Galveston Engineer District employees to be briefed and to visit a few of our current project. Retirees had the opportunity to reminisce with old friends and receive updates on district projects. Each and everyone I talked to had fond memories of their time in the district and took great pride of their accomplishments. I look forward to seeing again some our retired teammates on Engineer Day.

Keep in mind those whom we have deployed: Pat Lingo, Ed Mason, Lt. Col. Mike Flynn and Johnny Rozsypal. Drop them a note and send them an email. I have the greatest admiration for anyone who can step out of their personal comfort zone and travel to somewhere they have never been to help others who are less fortunate.



Col. Leonard Waterworth



Left: Johnny Rozsypal shakes hands with Lt. Gen. Flowers. Right: Lt. Col. Mike Flynn flies in an army helicopter.



Norma holding a brown snake in Guam. For Norma, this was all part of the training.



While in Guam, one of Norma's responsibilities was to keep track of supplies that came off airplanes (like the one seen above).



A photo of damage to a residential area.



Norma (on the phone) with the rest of the team.

Agency, or FEMA employees. Their objectives were to establish temporary housing, reestablish fresh water sources, transportation and distribution, and ensure the safety of public roadways, buildings, and schools. They also were to clear debris, provide power and technical assistance, assess damage, and provide assistance and support to the people of Guam. Along the way she met many interesting people, learned a new culture, and acquired many new skills and life experiences.

There were three operation centers set up across the island: Anderson Air Force Base, FEMA warehouse, and DFO, which was set up in a local mall. The disaster recovery was divided into missions: emergency power, debris removal, technical assistance, (which included water/sewer assessment and building assessment), GIS, CTOC (safety and logistics), storm high water (damage assessment), temporary housing, water, and PDA – CNMI.

There were many difficult challenges facing the crews in Guam. Power was the most complicated of all disaster

missions. Black Construction Inc. installed one hundred and thirty-eight generators, with crews to maintain and read the meters. The debris mission was categorized into four types: green and vegetative, construction and demolition (C&D), metals, and white goods. Temporary housing worked in coordination with FEMA to issue tents and make sure the people of Guam had shelter. Everyone worked very hard to complete the tasks in their missions.

For Norma, the most challenging work was resource-tracking tasks. "I had never done that in my whole career," she said. Huge planes filled with supplies, generators, and equipment came in at a steady flow. She tracked and recorded all cargos that came through and built a spreadsheet for the data to be entered into. She was responsible for learning the system, and keeping an updated record of all employees. Every day this was sent to Pacific Ocean Division and Honolulu District EOC and Honolulu District.

Another challenge was the responsibility of organizing incoming personnel. Norma was

like a real life superwoman taking care of every employee who came to Guam. She arranged travel, lodging, flights, hotels, and auto rental, and any changes that came about.

She also was responsible for IT works, timekeeping, helping to issue tents with FEMA, and tracking, distributing, and maintaining generators. She received training for an impact card, learned the Tele-Engineering Kit, and believe it or not, became a licensed forklift driver.

Because she was so involved, she had the opportunity to meet high authority figures. She met Mayor Camacho and his wife, and even attended three outings with them.

She received many awards for her hard work. She was decorated with an array of pins from different groups of people along the way. She was also invited to the Honolulu, Hawaii Army Engineers Ball, which was a great honor. She received a coin from Colonel Press for her work in Guam and Hawaii, and Joel Hendrix from the Honolulu District EOC gave her the "2" Cents coin. Which is literally two pennies glued together. When you are

bestowed with this honor, you are then and only then allowed to give your two cents. Other awards she received were from: Col. Darren Carpenter (Guam Pin & Key chain) Eric Winters (Logistics Chief for two months - Corps Castle Pin) James Monsu - Power Mission (Guam Pin) Pete Navesky (Tulsa District Pin).

As time passed, she became a familiar face in the communities in which she was working. She got to meet and befriend many of the local families. She was invited to have dinner with them and had a chance to try some authentic island food. She explains some dishes she got to try, "One common dish was a huge seaweed leaf that looks like spinach wrapped around either fish or pork. It was very good. They also had a side dish called 'Poi,' a gray-purple paste like dish that was very popular."

She learned the culture of the people who lived there, and heard interesting tales. One such story tells that spiritual ancestors guard the forest. If you go into the wilderness, you cannot take any souvenirs or do anything to hurt the environment. The people told her that something

**See Norma's Home on page 8 . .**

# Strut Your Self!

## FWP Presents Dress For Success Fashion Show

Did you know that statistics show that in 15 seconds of meeting someone, you have already prejudged them? You only get one chance to make a first impression, so, why not make a good one!

The Federal Woman's Program presented, Dress For Success, the first ever fashion show held at the building with our own Corps employees as models.

"Image can hold you back or promote you. You need to dress for two positions higher than where you are," said image consultant and guest speaker, Toya Owens-Shepard of First Impressions. "Remember this, when it comes to our careers, 85% comes from image, 15% comes from technical."

Mrs. Owens-Shepard also stressed the importance of the 3 P's. Product which is you;



David Janda



Jody Stephens



Joy Smith

packaging which is where image fits in; and presentation, where they all come together.

After the fashion show, the Corps employees were given the opportunity to meet with the sponsors to ask questions on interviewing techniques, hair, dress, and make-up. Some, like Joy Smith, even got a makeover.

Models that were dressing for success were David Janda, Lucy Smith, Kristi McMillian, Jody Stephens, Traci Robicheaux, and Ricky Villagomez. Sponsors that help make the event a success were Mary Kay Cosmetics; Casual Corner Group, Inc.; K & G; "First Impressions" and Toni & Guy.

## LDP: Consider Utilizing Dale Carnegie Training To Enhance More Than Just Your Public Speaking

by David Janda, LDP Member

I personally can attest to the difference "The Dale Carnegie Course" has made in my life both personally and professionally and thus heartily endorse both it and Toastmasters participation, but that's another topic. I especially owe to this course my high comfort level and eagerness to accept opportunities ensnaring me to ad-lib beyond meager preparatory materials given to me.

Dale Carnegie Training, as they call themselves, offer up to 3-day courses/seminars and products to enable professional and personal growth beyond merely enhancing public speaking skills and comfort zone. Other helpful courses include "Leadership Training for Managers," "Creating an Executive Image that Wins Friends and Influences People," "Developing the Leader in You," "High-Impact Presentations," "How to Coach Employees to Peak Performance," "Maximizing Productive Time Through Focus," "Public Speaking Mastery," "How to Use Influence as a Leadership Tool," "Developing the Confidence to Lead," "How to Overcome Workplace Negativity With Enthusiasm," "Successfully Managing People in Projects," "How to Replace Conflict with Cooperation," and "Step up to

Leadership." However, I'll limit myself to only discussing the one I attended and remind the reader that this is the opinion of the author and is in no way intended to be an endorsement by the Corps or LDP program. It was money well spent from my personal funds and only required about 4 hours for an evening a week for 12 weeks. Consider adding it to your IDP even if you fund it yourself.

The Dale Carnegie Course uses interactive team dynamics to help you strengthen interpersonal relationships, manage stress, handle fast-changing workplace conditions, communicate persuasively, solve problems synergistically, and zealously lead with focused heightened self-confidence. Here's some specifics from their website paraphrased more concisely but nearly verbatim:

1. Stretch creativity and performance while expanding and improving work habits and business skills.
2. Tackle more issues and complexity generating better ideas more frequently.
3. Excel in focusing teams in building synergy/consensus.
4. Implement the Five Drivers of Success.
5. Identify, recognize, foster, and develop personal breakthroughs to include reduc-

ing self-consciousness and fear to move beyond your comfort zone.

6. Develop, practice, and repeat successful living habits.
7. Inspire team into action through clearer terser communications.
8. Apply the nine human relations principles.
9. Develop mnemonics skills.

In closing, the point I most wish to drive home with you is not that you should seriously consider conquering your fear of public speaking nor even hone those skills directly. While these are an important skill set to your leadership success, I feel they are more symptoms of increased self-confidence and developing BOTH the knowledge and skills to "win friends and influence people." There's a song about learning to love your self as being the greatest love of all. I feel learning to become your own best friend and influencing your own increased self-confidence through increased self-awareness and self-development to be the greatest self-respect of all. I wish you the very best in your own passionate pursuit of leadership excellence! Essayons!

### EXTRA! EXTRA!



Scott Leimer



Ryan Brown

Two new full time employees have joined us at Galveston District. Both have recently graduated college with civil engineering degrees, and are working in Geo Tech. Scott Leimer, an Aggie, enjoys sailing in his free time, and Ryan Brown, a Longhorn, goes fishing.



Justin Cross

Welcome, Justin! Justin Cross has come to us from the intern program. He graduated from Texas A&M with a major in Land Economics and Real Estate. He is interested in civil works. His undergraduate work was in environmental studies.

# Corps Welcomes Summer Hires



**Ashley Thibodeaux**  
Ashley is a senior at Ball High School in Galveston. She plans to attend Texas A&M and major in criminal justice. She found out about the summer hire program through her mother, Pamela Thibodeaux.



**Joel Patlan**  
Joel will be a graduating senior in 2004 from Clear Brook High School. This is his second year as a summer hire. He is the nephew of Mary Ann Patlan. He plans to work towards a degree in law enforcement. He is interested in working for the CIA or FBI.



**Colleen Martin**  
Colleen Martin attends Stephen F. Austin and is majoring in communications. She said working as a summer hire is great work experience because she hopes to work at the Corps when she graduates. She works in Public Affairs, and is the daughter of Art Martin.



**Kevin McDonald**  
Kevin will be starting his senior year at Ball High School in Galveston this fall. He is the son of Richard McDonald. Plans after graduation are to attend Galveston College and major in civil engineering.



**Judy Aldred**  
Judy has just graduated from Dickinson High School. She plans to attend Alvin Community College, and then transfer to University of Houston. She will major in engineering.



**Larry Perez**  
Larry is a sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin, studying aerospace engineering. He wanted to work at the Corps to get a feel for engineering and see if it would suit him to pursue a career. He hopes to get a feel for what the Corps does this summer, and see what it does for the city and public.



**Stacy Mullen**  
Stacy Mullen is a recent graduate of Ball High School, and plans to attend Tulane College in New Orleans Louisiana. She will double major in engineering and art. She found out about the summer hire program through a field trip with her calculus class.



**Ryan Gallagher**  
Ryan attends the University of San Diego majoring in industrial and systems engineering. He is working this summer in Engineering. He wanted to work at the Corps because he was interested in what the Corps did, and wanted engineering experience.



**Jessica Ferguson**  
Jessica Ferguson attends Texas A&M, College Station. She is a psychology major and aspires to be a martial counselor. She is working in regulatory this summer. This is her second year with the Corps.



**Michael Hardges**  
Michael Hardges attends Prairie View A&M University, studying psychology as a major, and minoring in social work. This is Michael's second year as a summer hire for operations. He plans to work for the government in the future and says that being a summer hire is a good start to a great career.



**Jill Sims**  
Jill Simms works for operations at Colorado River Locks. This is her second year as a summer hire. She attends Wharton County Junior College and is studying elementary education. She was offered a job as a summer hire and said she can not pass up the opportunity it offers.



**Gordon McCarty**  
Gordon McCarty is a recent high school graduate, planning to attend Stephen F. Austin State University in the fall. He works at for the Colorado River Locks. He wanted to work for the Corps to learn about the Locks and the job seems to fit his personality.



**Nathan Cernosek**  
Nathan Cernosek is a process tech major at Lee College. He works with operations at Addicks. Nathan loves the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting. This is his first year as a summer hire, but he plans to make a career of it and stay with the Corps of Engineers.



**Krista Huegler**  
Krista Huegler works for regulatory in Corpus Christi. She attends the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in government and Latin American studies. She hopes to work with the State Department concentrating in international politics. She sees working for the Corps as an interesting job and opportunity.



**Rhett Campbell**  
Rhett Campbell is a student and member of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M, College Station. He will be going into his sophomore year in the fall and is majoring in general studies. He is working this summer at the Houston Project Office.

# Keep Up the Good Work, Galveston!

Team Galveston,

I have added 25 more soldiers to our list making a total of 39! Not only do I want to send a care package but I need volunteers to write to the new additions. A few of the 39 are back in the States safe and sound, but for those who are still serving, receiving a letter gives them a great deal of pleasure and it's also a way to let them know we still support them. From the feedback I've gotten, our boxes and letters are a really big hit! Please let me know if you would like to write and I will supply a name(s).

I have started on some of the packages that need to go out and I'm out of "stuffing" to cushion the goodies in the boxes. If you have any unused bubble wrap, peanuts, or shredded paper it would be appreciated. I will be trying to get them all out next week.

If you can help please e-mail me and I'll e-mail you when I'm ready to get the "assembly line" together.

Lastly, I have enough donated postage money left for approximately seven more boxes. They have been running between \$15 to \$20 per box. If you can, please consider donating cash for postage fees.

I have recieved letters and postcards and even a phone call thanking us. They appreciate the support so very much so I thought I'd pass the "thank you's" on to all of you. And from me too, Thanks for all your help and support!!

Roseanne Theobald



## A Letter From Our Soliders

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for all the great stuff. I look great in the sunglasses, and everyone is enjoying the food and goodies. It really makes us happy to know that you all support us. Please excuse the sand on the letter, little dusty up here in Tibrit. Thanks again  
Sincerely  
2LT Scott R. Schultz

# Regulatory Teaches the Importance of Wetlands at a Local Elementary School



Ben Boren

I wanted to take a moment to tell you about an opportunity that Ben Boren and I had on May 8.

Ben and I were invited to Parker Elementary School's Environmental Fair to help educate kindergarten through fifth grade about the importance of wetlands and what it is like to be a biologist with the Corps.

Ben and I work in the Compliance Section of the Regulatory Branch and have spent a great deal of time explaining the importance of wetlands to the public, so we were looking forward to the challenge of explaining it to young children.

To do this we decided to explain to them that when land is very wet it changes the soil, and when the soil changes it invites special plants and when the special plants grow it invites special animals. This is a complicated science and is often difficult to teach at a college level, so we agreed to take a lot of visual aids and hands-on items. We took a sample of soil, several wetland plants, a table full of animal skulls, turtle shells and fish jaw bones, but the most popular items on the table were definitely the two live aquatic turtles and a fake pile of scat. For those of you who are not familiar with the term scat, it is a fancy Latin term for: let's just call it manure.

We would carefully tell them why wetlands are important, show them how the soil rusts like their bicycles and then show them some of the plants that grow in wetlands. We wanted to teach them not only the benefits of wetlands but also some of the science of wetlands such as identifying plants. To do this, Ben collected two plants that could easily be confused and then showed the children how to tell the difference. I will always remember the kindergartners chanting, "sedges have edges and grasses have knees." To further reinforce identifying organisms we used the two live turtles. These poor turtles are pets of mine

that I have used for education since graduate school. Both of them are very tame and very accustomed to children petting them. We would show them how to tell them apart and then ask them what happens if you can't tell the difference. In which most of the kids replied, "ask the teacher." We explained that there are times when we can't identify a specimen and will also ask other people for help, but that we also use a lot of books to look up the answer for ourselves. I think they were a little daunted by the large field books we showed them, but they seemed to like all of the pictures.

We also explained to them that many times you don't actually see animals in the field, but you do find things the animals leave behind such as footprints or scat. That's when I would pull out the very real looking but fake scat and whew did the kids give that a lot of attention.

We also discussed safety in the field and showed them our snake boots and asked them

what they do when they find a snake. I am proud to say that every group unanimously agreed that they would run away! When they got it right, which all of them did, we "officially" awarded them with a Junior Ranger Safety Patrol Badge.

I was impressed, as always, at how quickly the children learn. Many of the booths at the fair had other organizations that discussed water quality issues. When Ben would start to tell the kids about the importance of the wetlands for pollution filtration, many of them could already relate it to the other presentations. And although very few of them had ever heard of wetlands, most of them had heard of swamps and marshes. Other organizations at the fair included NOAA, the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, Galveston County Health District, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, and the Offshore Energy Center. It was a great day and I can say with confidence that I learned as much as the kids and look forward to going back.

## Life After The Corps..

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Sand Castle survey! All of your comments were greatly appreciated and are going to be very beneficial in the direction that the Sand Castle will go. Due to the request of many of you we will be including a retiree section in future issues of the Sand Castle. Please send updates, birthdays, anniversaries, or any other retiree announcements. Comments should be sent to: USACE  
ATTN: PAO-Retiree  
P.O. Box 1229  
Galveston, TX 77553

Norman C. Tobleman, JR. had his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 7, 2003.

Alice Graham, wife of Douglas T. Graham, who retired from the Chief, Engineering Division, Galveston District in 1976, passed away in 2002. Mr. Graham wanted PAO to inform everyone that he's "alive and kicking in a retirement community in Burbank, CA." If you would like to contact him you can reach him at: D.T. Graham  
2721 Willow Street #202  
Burbank, CA 91505

## A Blast From the Past

*Corps retirees are given the opportunity to revisit district and tour J.J. Mayes Wildlife Trace*

George Rothen, Paul Lobit, Lee Gana, and Rose Heinrich are just a few of those who attended Galveston District's first Retiree Day on May 15 at the Jadwin building.

"It is so important to keep in contact with our fellow Corps employees - just because you are out of sight, you are never out of mind," said Col. Waterworth.

Retirees were briefed on the goings on of projects by Arthur Janecka, chief of project management and his staff. Some of the projects mentioned were Neches Saltwater Barrier and the Houston Ship Channel.

From the building, the retirees were taken to the Wallisville Lake project, where manager Richard Long welcomed everyone and gave them a bus tour of the trace.

"It is so wonderful to see old friends and have an opportunity to visit a project, I hope the district will offer this again," said retiree George Rothen.



Richard Long, manager of the Houston Project Office discusses the history of Wallisville, including its latest success, the J.J. Mayes Wildlife Trace, while retirees enjoy their lunch.



Retiree Paul Lobit and his wife, Esther, look to see what kind of birds they can spot at the trace. Paul Lobit retired from the Corps as an engineering tech.

# Personal Flotation Devices: A Testimonial

May 28, 2003

To: Danny J. Wyatt

Recently you gave a talk to the Galveston Bay Power Squadron regarding the importance of wearing life jackets while on the water. Some members of the squadron's Cooperative Charting group purchased one of the types you demonstrated. I also ordered one and placed it aboard my salvage and rescue boat in early May.

The evening of May 23, I got underway to cover the lower Galveston Bay and Gulf Of Mexico area. I had on board Capt. Harvey, who is one of our new captains in training. He did not bring a PFD so I told him I had a new comfortable life jacket. He put in on and said how good it felt. The second case of the night occurred at about 2400 when we were notified by the Houston Pilot Boat and USCG Station Galveston of a boat hitting the north Galveston Jetty. We arrived on scene shortly after the USCG RHI and observed a boat inclined at about forty degrees up the rocks and ninety degrees to the jetty. The USCG RHI informed us that the owner of the grounded boat wanted immediate removal.

I put Harvey aboard the stricken vessel with his cell

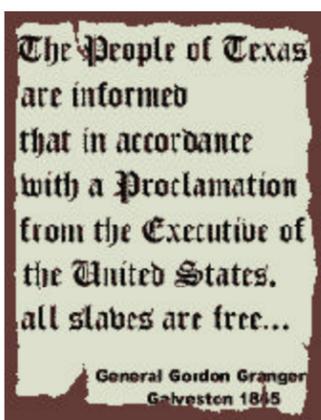
phone and we worked out an agreement with the owner for the salvage procedure. I eased back in to pick up Harvey and two children that were aboard the boat. As they moved to the stern of the stranded boat, the weight shift caused the boat to suddenly slide off the jetty, hit the water, and partially capsize on it's starboard side, throwing all four people in the water. All had on life jackets, including Harvey in the new one. The Coast Guard RHI, with six crew members aboard, quickly moved in and pulled all on board.

I picked up Harvey from the RHI and we quickly began dewatering, righting and towing the boat to Galveston Yacht Basin. The Coast Guard RHI raced the owner and the two children to a waiting EMS unit at Station Galveston. As it turned out there were no serious injuries.

Harvey was distraught about his lost cell phone and soaked wallet but had vocal praise for the new life jacket which he had been wearing all night. Thank you for taking time to come speak to us. I suspect I wouldn't have thought to purchase this life vest without the demonstration.

*Captain Frank Lotz*

## Galveston District Joins In Juneteenth Celebration



**June 19, 2003: 7th Annual Emancipation Proclamation Reading and Prayer Breakfast Ashton Villa - Galveston, TX**

Corps members attended a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation commemorating the historic event that took place in Galveston on June 19, 1865.

The Emancipation Proclamation was actually enacted on January 1, 1863, but news of the slave's freedom traveled slowly, and the Union forces were not strong enough to enforce the new code.

Galveston holds the distinction of being the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in the South and where Juneteenth celebrations began. It is for this reason the reenactment is so very vital to the history of Galveston and of the South.

Texas State Representative Al Edwards was in attendance. Rep. Edwards is from the Houston District and is the originator of two very important Juneteenth Bills.

The first would declare Juneteenth a state holiday and the second would create a monument on state grounds commemorating Juneteenth celebrations past and present.

Galveston District employees, at the permission of their supervisors, were granted one hour of administrative leave. This allowed Corps employees until 9:30 to return to work without taking personal leave.



*Kids play with Seamoor at the Kemah Boardwalk.*

## Seamoor Visits Kemah

Landry's Restaurant sponsored a first time Kemah Boardwalk Kids Fun Days at the Kemah Boardwalk on May 31 and June 1. The event was coordinated by the new Texas Children's Health Centers and focused on safety messages for children. Participants included the Houston Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Kemah Police Department, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth and Galveston Districts.

Four large canopy tents provided shelter for various

activities targeting health, nutrition, wellness, and safety (car, bike, sun, heat, and water) issues. The event highlight of the two-day festival was clearly the Corp's Water Safety mascot, Seamoor the Sea Serpent. Twirling and zipping along to catchy, popular musical tunes, Seamoor spilled out his main message to children, "life jackets float, but you don't."

The event was a huge safety success thanks to the dedication of the event participants.

Summer is here, children are dear, and SAFETY is #1.

## WORD SEARCH!

Find the words in the puzzle. When you are finished, the unused letters in the puzzle will spell out a hidden message in the first four lines of the puzzle. Pick out from left to right, top to bottom. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions!

E S G O O U T A N D D W E T L A N D S  
 N O T G O O D T B A Y P O R T H I N G  
 V S F R E T A W T L A S O R V A M E R  
 I I C A O R W B N N F S C Z A M R M M  
 R M M Y K P N K J W D L R J L J T J V  
 O G P N C O T W O M R I Y T U W R R R  
 N E K D C Y Q H E F N O K D E T T K E  
 M J N T I J X D Y O K P T P S N T V C  
 E F H G M S I C I Y N S G R E R N H N  
 N D F X I A P T G K D R N M V L I H A  
 T W H K T N A O P V U T H B R R O C N  
 N T K I J E E V S B D S K P M F P X E  
 K T O L N J R E H A I Y L R H N L V T  
 V N P I L E L C R R L A J V M Y A C N  
 X R L P P D N N U S N A R H V R O H I  
 L E M P W Y P O N N H J R V S M H R A  
 D G O N L J N W I K R T D E H O S K M  
 K H M Z H P H N Y N G M V V A N P R M  
 Q Q Q Z M W G Q T Y R O T A L U G E R

Bayport  
 CO Two  
 Delineation  
 Disposal Area  
 Engineers  
 Environment  
 Hopper  
 Lynchburg  
 Maintenance  
 Mediation

Nourishment  
 Planning  
 Ports  
 POSH  
 Regulatory  
 Saltwater  
 Shoal Point  
 Spoils  
 Values  
 Wetlands

Answer to hidden message on page 12.

## George Rochen Distinguished Civilian Employee



George R. Rochen started his career in 1960 after graduating from Texas A&M University and a 2-year stint in the U.S. Army. He retired as the Senior Civilian in the District (GS-15) a key leadership role as the Deputy District Engineer for Project Mgmt, after a long and distinguished 40-year career. Rochen accomplished all of his assignments in an exemplary manner while delighting customers along the way.

Rochen distinguished himself in a myriad of assignments as follows: Intern; Structural Designer, Specifications Writer; Project Engineer; Ft. Point Area Office, Area Engineer; Chief of Operations Section; Chief of Operations & Maintenance Branch; Assistant Chief and Chief of the Construction-Operations Division; and Deputy District Engineer for Project Management.

Rochen played a major role in the development of many Galveston District projects including: Sabine Neches Waterway, Houston Ship Channel, Freeport Harbor, Brazos Island Harbor, Texas City Channel, Galveston Channel, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and many other navigation channels in the District. He was also involved with the currently ongoing projects of Clear Creek, Neches River Saltwater Barrier, Wallisville Lake, Brays Bayou, Channel to Victoria, Houston and Galveston navigation channels and many other projects, studies and activities of the District.

Rochen retired in August 2000.

## Mark Lumen Named Employee of the Year and Nancy Young as Engineer of the Year

On Engineer Day, one of the biggest awards given out are Employee and Engineer of the Year.

This year's recipients were Mark Lumen, Office of Counsel and Nancy Young, General Engineering, Engineering Division.

"Mark has always worked above and beyond normal job requirements and his desire/attitude to carry out the district's mission is outstanding," said Chief of Counsel, Tom Moore, who also nominated Mark for the award.

"I know I can depend on Nancy's work to always be top notch," said General Engineering Section Chief, Mike Castelline. "Nancy is a team player with a 'can-do' attitude and she is highly respected by her peers and supervisors. I am very lucky to have her working in my section."



Col. Waterworth and Mark Lumen pose for the camera.



Col. Waterworth with the Engineer of the Year, Nancy Young and Chief of Engineering, Terry Bautista.

## Engineer Day 2003 - Why We Celebrate



Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers

Once again we take this opportunity during the month of June to celebrate Engineer Day. It is a day to reflect on the accomplishments of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Engineer Regiment over the past year, on our proud heritage of service to the nation, and to think of future opportunities for continued service.

Two hundred years ago, Capts. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were charged by President Thomas Jefferson to lead the greatest military engineering expedition in America's history. As they journeyed from St. Louis to the Pacific Northwest, they explored and mapped the continent, conducted scientific research and documented their interaction with the Native Americans. Little could they

have imagined that 200 years later the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would have a presence in more than 90 nations around the world providing engineering and scientific expertise.

Today, we continue a tradition of service that began with Col. Richard Gridley, the first federal engineer, and his fortifications at Bunker Hill. This year, Army engineers again answered the nation's call to arms to deal with the threat posed by the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and to liberate the people of Iraq. Iraq, like Afghanistan the year before, is far from our shores, but was a nation with a tyrannical regime that posed a threat to America and the free world by its support of global terrorism.

I continue to be inspired by the USACE members who volunteered to answer our nation's call to deploy into potential harm's way. Each of these outstanding Americans understood that their mission would not be an easy one and that they would be far from their homes, families and friends. Yet, each stepped forward to offer their critical skills and capabilities - and many more are prepared to go forward if needed.

We have often heard the question, "Why is Civil Works in the U.S. Army?" While we have often endeavored to explain the importance of our civil works capabilities to the military, the war in Iraq allowed the Corps to show how those capabilities are critical to the military's needs. Although Army dollars do not pay for our civil works personnel unless they are called to support the military mission, this workforce of approximately 25,000 people represents a highly skilled engineering and scientific pool of talent that can be used to meet specific military needs. Of course, while we supported the mission abroad, all of the great work that we do on a daily basis continued here at home with our military construction, civil works, research and environmental missions for the nation.

We have much to be proud of in the work that has been done over the past year, and we have contributed to the legacy of those who have gone before us. The future for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Engineer Regiment is bright, and we will continue to be prepared to answer the nation's call to serve.

Lt. Gen. Bob Flowers

## Andy Williams is Having a Great Year!



Col. Waterworth with the recipient of Regulator of the Year, Andy Williams, and his family.

A self-motivated worker, a dedicated employee, a team player, and always having a positive attitude were just a few of the wonderful things said by fellow co-workers about this year's recipient of Regulator of the Year.

Andy was also the recipient of the Regulatory Teamwork Award and Customer Service Award.

Recently, Andy was offered and accepted the GS-12 position in the Regulatory Compliance Section.

If that's not enough, Andy and his wife are expecting their second child in the fall.

# Service Awards

## 5 Years

Darrell Johnson      James McKeon, Jr.  
Luther Merriman    Mohamed Moussa  
James Worthington

## 10 Years

Kristine Brown      Sandra Byron  
Bryan Herczeg      Mitchell Mayo  
Chris Rossi          Volker Schmidt  
Robert Sherwood    Lori Thomas  
David Voelkel        Ronald Weaver

## 15 Years

Robert Behrens, Jr.   Michael Diaz  
Steven Ireland        Erik Nelson  
Richard Schrank      Ruben Villagran  
Eric Willmore        Tina Ybarra  
Angela Zahid

## 20 Years

Randolph Batiste    Sandra Blackwell  
David Brown        Edmund Ching  
Abel Contreras, Jr.   Paul Cox  
Clifford Dominey    Cleo Dow  
Norma Garcia        Edward Huff  
Sharon Lamkins      Constantine Marinos  
Art Martin            Alton Meyer III  
Michael Mosby        Paul Norman  
David P. Orr          Robert Page  
Kanu H. Patel        Lawrence Redd  
Beatrice Richardson   Valdemar Rocha  
Eric Nelson            Harrison Sutcliffe  
Richard Tomlinson

*Col. Waterworth with Abel Contreras Jr. at the service awards ceremony. Abel Contreras received his certificate for 20 years.*



## 25 Years

Ramon Barrios, Jr.    Terry Bautista  
Deborah Clark        Clark Colquitt  
Darrell Davis        Larry Hill  
Joseph Hrametz      Helene Kieslich  
Dennis Lanigan      Kathy Moore  
Carolyn Murphy      Carol Nelson  
Luis Reyna            Terrell Roberts  
Willis Walker        Lynwood Weiss

## 30 Years

Warren Dengler, Jr.   Dalton Krueger  
Richard Medina        Thomas Nini, III  
Justo Pena             David Petit  
Gerald Voelkel, Jr.

## 35 Years

James H. Benham, III  
John D. Clark  
William J. Hopkins  
Alfredo Requenez

# Special Awards

## Safety Awards

Thomas Portaritis    William Ridgway  
Rhonda Brown

## Wellness Committee Awards

Kristine Brown      Rhonda Brown  
Cindy Burke        Terri Carlson  
Nicolle Dailey      David Janda  
Lynette Mills        Earnestine Brown-Roach  
Denise Sloan        Joy Smith

## EEO Awards

### Special Emphasis Program Managers

Kim Crawford, FWP Manager  
Baldev Mann, Asian Pacific  
Byron Williams, BEP  
Tina Ybarra, HEP

### Counselors

Robert Heinly  
Robert Sherwood  
Johnnie Simmons  
William Wise

## Emerging Leaders Award

Kim Crawford

## EEO "We Care" Award

Rose Cabellaro

## Certification Of Appreciation / Commander's Coin

Gloria Appell        Robert Heinly  
Carol Hollaway      Byron Williams  
Trina Ruse            Denise Sloan  
Paula Wise            Tina Ybarra

## Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Sharon Tirpak

## Landscape Architect of the Year 2002

Rhonda Brown, ASLA

## Regulatory Awards

Team Work Award - Eugene Patterson  
Customer Service Award - Andy Williams  
Regulator of the Year - Andy Williams

## Engineer of the Year Nominees

David R. Brown      Nancy C. Young  
Richard S. Whitmire

## Employee of the Year Nominees

Sal Arcidiacono      Willie Joe Honza  
Fern Kirkley        Mark Lumen  
Fred Requenez, Jr.   Joy Smith  
Andy Williams        Tina Ybarra

## Distinguished Civilian Employee of the Year

George Rothen



*Bob Behrens, Ruben Villagran, and Tina Ybarra with Col. Waterworth.*

**Norma's Home**  
continued from page 3...

bad will happen to you if you do not follow the rules.

The story seems to be true! Norma met a local man who kicked a stone and his foot later turned black. He went and apologized to the ancestors and his foot went back to normal. Even more amazing, a woman she worked with went into the woods, found a large, strange looking seed with a long stem and bought it back to the office. Her hand started to hurt and tingle from her fingers all the way up her arm. She went to the doctor and they could not find the problem. She took the seed back to the area she found it and her pain went away. "She went home early!" Norma said, "I can't blame her."

Through all the destruction Typhoon Pongsona caused, Guam is still a beautiful place. Norma and all the other members of the relief mission will always have memories of the pig roasts, sunsets, and striking beaches. She will always remember her exciting

once in a lifetime experience, and the many friends she made.

It takes a special person to want to go on disaster relief missions. You must leave your family, home, and job to go help other people rebuild their lives. Norma not only helped people in need, but also made a difference through hard work and determination. Along the way, as an added bonus she learned a new culture and made lifelong memories. "I miss it. When I left everyone came to tell me goodbye. I even got a homemade gold star!" she replied when I asked her if she was happy to be back. Let us all welcome her back and let her know important she is to the Galveston District team!

*Norma would like to thank Honolulu District, Galveston District, POD, and FEMA, for all their support.*

## Wellness:

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer. Basal cell cancer affects 800,000 persons per year. It arises from the basal cells which are the outer skin layers. Squamous cell carcinoma affects 200,000 persons per year and arises from the epidermis and may occur in all areas of the body.

*Risk factors include:*

- Light complexion
- Moles or dark spots
- Family history of melanoma
- Previous skin cancer
- History of high sun exposure/sunburns during childhood
- Immunosuppression

*Preventive measures:*

- Avoid skin sun exposure
- Use sunscreen lotion and protective clothing
- Education and awareness of skin cancer prevention
- Early skin changes medical help

*Moles and melanoma - ABCD's of warning signs what to look for with moles:*

- Asymmetry
- Borders

## Skin Cancer

- Color
- Diameter

*Important skin cancer instructions*

- Avoid tanning salons
- Never let a suspicious mole go unchecked longer than 1 month
- Perform self skin exam once a month
- Wear sunscreen and be aware SPF 15 gives 93% protection
- Prompt action is your best protection.
- Get checked by professional who specializes in skin cancer and is trained to recognize a melanoma at the earliest stages.

For more information contact: UTMB Department of Dermatology 409-772-1911 and ask when next skin cancer screening is offered or write to: **The Skin Cancer Foundation P.O. Box 561 Depart. SEW New York, NY 10156**

## Castle Comments



### Happy JUNE Birthday

Robert Page	June 1
Shirley Fanuiel	June 1
David Janda	June 2
Ron Weaver	June 3
William Roberts	June 3
Brent Granier	June 5
Randy Richardson	June 7
Daina Laird	June 7
Darrell Davis	June 8
Mary Ann Patlan	June 9
Kathi Dunaway	June 9
Diane Kovacevich	June 10
Kristine Brown	June 10
Bill Hernandez	June 12
Jacque Adekanbi	June 12
Rafael Felix	June 13
Earl Richard	June 14
Harrison Sutcliffe	June 14
Wattie Bickham	June 15
Cynthia Burke	June 15
Bill Jakeway	June 16
Isidoro Martinez	June 18
Charles Scheffler	June 18
Carolyn Murphy	June 20
Lloyd Saunders	June 23
Ed Herrington	June 25
Ana Gordon	June 26
Robert Hauch	June 28
Brenda Hayden	June 28
Mike Flynn	June 28
Thomas Nini	June 29
Bob Heinly	June 29
Fern Kirkley	June 30

### Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Carl Anderson of Project Management, who married Lonnie Burton on June 5 in Houston. The former Ms. Burton is a nurse at Bayshore Hospital in Pasadena.

### Baby News

There is a new grandpa in the building, Darrell Davis, just call him "Gramps"! The new baby boy was born Friday, 13 Jun 03 at 9:45 p.m. weighing in at 7 lbs 4 oz. Welcome Caleb Julius McAllester!

### Congratulations. . .

Andy Williams has been offered and accepted the GS-12 position in the Regulatory Compliance Section.

### Answer to Word Search!

Go out and do good things for America.

### Our Condolences

Please keep your thoughts and prayers with the Mayfield family. George Mayfield, who passed away this month, retired from Galveston District 30+ years ago. He was founder of the Survey Branch under the Engineering and Planning Division.

Condolences goes out to Robert Pages, Brazos River Floodgates, whose father passed away in Indiana.

Please keep your thoughts and prayers with Jacob Walsdorf, general engineering, whose grandfather passed away in New Orleans, La.

Former employee, George Marinos, father of Gus Marinos, emergency management passed away June 8. Visitation was held at J. Levy & Bro. Funeral Home, in Galveston. Funeral services were held on June 11 2003 at the Greek Orthodox Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Marinos family.

The mother of Ed Herrington, office of counsel, passed away in Beaumont. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Lt. Col. Donald George McDavid, helicopter pilot and former member of the Galveston District Engineering Division, died in Houston on June 11. McDavid, who left the Corps to serve in Vietnam, was commander of the U.S. Army Flight Facility in Houston before his retirement. Our sympathy is with the McDavid family.

## The Gift of Life

The May 16, 2003, blood drive held here in the Jadwin Building was a big success. Of the 31 people who were able to donate blood, many designated Mrs. Carolyn Bonham, wife of retiree Mr. Ken Bonham, as a replacement patient, helping the Bonham Family defray the cost of recent blood transfusions.

Kenneth Bellino  
Veronica Benavides  
Bruce Bennett  
Karl Brown  
Donald Carelock  
Roslyn Colston  
Paul Cox  
Delia Deckard  
Roger Freeman  
Marianne Fullen  
Ana Gordon  
Robert Hauch  
Bryan Herczeg  
Edward Huff  
Bill Jakeway  
Kenny Jaynes  
Cheryl Jaynes  
Rajasehar Joseph  
John Machol  
Thomas Mason  
Mike McClenan  
Lynette Radcliffe  
Jeffrey Ramos  
Oscar Ramos  
Cliff Reeves  
Denise Sloan  
Jody Stephens  
Nicholas Warfield  
Tim Whitaker  
Andrew Williams