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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- August 6*  
District PRB
- August 19*  
Groundbreaking for Packery Channel
- August 19*  
Greens Bayou Public Meeting
- August 20-22*  
GICA Conference  
New Orleans, La.
- August 21*  
Texas Environmental Resources Stewards Meeting
- August 26-29*  
Coastal Structures Conference
- September 1*  
HOLIDAY
- September 10*  
District PRB

## Buckeye Knoll analysis plan announced by Corps of Engineers

A decision on analysis of the collection and disposition of the human remains found at the Buckeye Knoll archeological site near Victoria, Texas has been announced by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. The district conducted excavations at the site to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act.

The site contains the largest Early Archaic cemetery ever found west of the Mississippi River. This unique cemetery is just one part of highly signifi-

cant archeological materials found at the site that represent over 10,000 years of human history on the Texas coast.

“My decision balances the diverse concerns of Native Americans and the archeological community to the greatest extent possible,” said Col. Leonard Waterworth, District Engineer and Commander of the Galveston District. In the process of developing a treatment plan, state and federal agencies, Native American tribes, the archeological commu-

nity, and the general public were consulted.

The Corps concluded that limited analysis of the human remains is necessary because they are the only evidence of the unique Early Archaic occupation at the site. This means that questions important to the prehistory of this country cannot be answered without direct analysis of the remains and associated mortuary materials.

The Corps plans to analyze

**See Knoll Plan on page 3 . .**

## Windmills on Corps horizon

Members of the Galveston Wharves Board (GWB) and its consultants are working on a plan to develop a \$300 million wind farm on Pelican Island. The plan being discussed involves three tracts of land owned by the Port of Galveston, the Port of Houston, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps owns 600 acres of land on Pelican Island that is used as a placement area for dredge materials.

The GWB and its consultants came to the Corps with a proposal for the wind farm, which is currently being evaluated. As of now the problem lies in the amount of space needed and if it is really feasible. The placement area is still in use and the Corps still needs it. If they were to allow the GWB to use the area it could impact the disposal area operations. Also, dredge material has not been used as actual support, i.e. to hold a structure. The space needed and stability of the area are both being researched.

The alternative or renewable energy project would include 100 wind turbines each towering 375 feet, counting the span of the blades. Wind energy is one of



*Colorado wind power*

the cheapest renewable energies. It is competitive with new clean coal fired power stations and cheaper than nuclear power. The cost of wind energy varies according to many factors.

The power generated, while in the initial phase would be at 35 megawatts and would grow to a 150 megawatts system with the 100 wind turbines, would be used at Port of Galveston facilities and sold as “green power” to area businesses or institutions. One 600kw wind turbine at a reasonable site would produce enough electricity to meet the annual needs of 375 households. With the projected start of 35 megawatts expanding to 150 megawatts, the windmills would be able to support 21,863 to 93,750 houses respectively. The project calls for the installation of two wind turbines initially to

**See Windmills on page 5 . .**

## HURRIVAC arrives in time for the hurricane season

The Lone Star State has adopted a new system for hurricane evacuation times. Texas officials have decided that at the beginning of the 2003 hurricane season, June 1<sup>st</sup>, the ESTED program will be replaced with HURRIVAC.

HURRIVAC is a software program designed to provide information and data to assist with evacuation times in the event of a hurricane. The change is no surprise. HURRIVAC is already widely used as a trustworthy evacuation system.

Nicolle Dailey recently attended a seminar on this system. She learned that the new system offers additional capabilities.

“Texas is the only state that takes into consideration surge and wind when calculating evacuation times,” said Dailey.

Most states besides Texas rely on the Corps to conduct hurricane-tracking studies. They gather information such as behavior analysis, transportation analysis, and build an evacuation model. Texas contracts this task out to Texas A&M. “Data collected is inputted to the HURRIVAC system and then used to track storms and estimate evacuation times. It gives a visual picture,” she said.

Not just anyone can get his or her hands on this new program. It is available for free to emergency management

**See HURRIVAC on page 8 . .**

# Commander's Column

## From My Window: How Do We Measure Up?

The other day I saw a series of spread sheets depicting the budget of every district in the Corps. These entries were further divided into military programs and Civil Works programs.

As I looked down the list, I found our office symbol of SWG at number 23 of 41 districts for budget size. I quickly realized this compared us with all districts, to include districts that had both Military and Civil Works projects, the Apple vs. Orange analogy. I then found a list of just those districts with Civil Works projects. On that list we were rated at number #6. My first thought was, "that's not too shabby." Our small district is executing a significant number of dollars."

This led me to my next question. Are we executing the dollars provided to us efficiently and how do you measure efficient execution? I started looking at the number of full time employees (FTEs) in the districts. We were number 32. Very interesting! We are near the top of the Civil Works budget list and near the bottom of the Civil works FTE list.

But, how do we measure up? I did a quick compare and contrast of our district with other Civil Works districts and guess what, we expend more dollars per individual employee than any other district. In fact, in every case our numbers are two to three times larger than other CW districts.

So what does that mean? We are a small district executing BIG contracts and if you combine that with our 100% + execution rates over the last five or more years, I conclude that we are a very efficient district. I also believe that Galveston District is what most districts will look like in the future. We are a district that works in teams of local sponsors, resource agencies and contractors to satisfy local infrastructure or environmental requirements that have Federal interest. We are efficient and effective because of your hard work and the partnerships that you have helped to develop along the Texas Coast line. Thank you!

As we go into the last quarter of the fiscal year, I want to commend all of you for staying on or ahead of schedule. Now having said that, DON'T slow down, I don't want us to spike the ball on the five yard line. Great execution supports the belief that there are more requirements on the Texas coast line then we can satisfy with available funding. We demonstrate that premise when we efficiently spend every dollar we are authorized. Stay ahead of schedule.

This month I want to highlight General Engineering and Contracting for their monumental efforts. These two organizations are keystones to our execution successes. Six months ago when I set our execution goals I was expecting some individuals to whine and snivel. "It could not be done." "It was to hard." But, not once did I get any negative comments. Everyone pulled together and figured how to accelerate the schedules. These two organizations may have some of the most difficult tasks in the process of accelerated execution and both have come through in flying colors.

Thank you for a job well done. I believe that we are well on our way to an even brighter future. Thanks to all of your efforts....



Col. Leonard Waterworth

**"Galveston District is the role model and the way that all districts should look in the future."**

**Col. Waterworth**



## 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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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.

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## Meet Mr. Jones...Captain Jones that is!



Capt. Sean Jones

Does the name Captain Sean Jones ring a bell? He reported for duty at Galveston district on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, only to be deployed to Kuwait on February 21. He has returned however, and is happy to be back.

"The people have been great. Everyone is very nice. Some even remember me from before I was sent to Kuwait!" he said.

Originally from Cameron, Texas, this hard working soldier has been all over the world in the past few years. Before his initial stay with the district he was previously stationed in Saudi Arabia, working under the Director of Public Works in operations. He was stationed there for one year, came to the Galveston District and then was abruptly called away to Kuwait. He was there for nearly five months, serving as the executive officer under Brig. Gen. Robert Crear.

Capt. Jones will be working in planning. He returned to the district on July 8 and is attempting to get acclimated.

His first goal is to move his family to Galveston; they have been in Boston since his deployment to Saudi Arabia. He has a 5 1/2 year old son and a 2 1/2 year old daughter.

The Galveston District welcomes back Capt. Jones. We wish his family a safe trip to the island.

## District opens bid for Packery



Representatives of the City of Corpus Christi attended the bid opening.

At \$ 21,297,624.00, Luhr Brothers, Inc. and King Fisher Marine Service, a joint venture, were the apparent low bidder on Wednesday, July 9 for Corpus Christi, Tx, North Padre Island, Storm Damage Reduction (Packery Channel) contract at the Galveston District.

"We are extremely excited to have this project underway," said Col. Leonard Waterworth, "The city of Corpus Christi has worked long and hard for this day."

Other bidders included Weeks Marine Inc. whose bid was \$ 35,864,443.00.

# Tanned and Tired

*Larry Dunaway returns from Kuwait after being gone for four months*

Tanned and tired, Larry Dunaway, logistics chief, has returned from Kuwait. He was gone nearly four months, returning May 20. Camp Doha, Kuwait, was his home while he was away.

While in Kuwait, Larry was one of the two logistics specialists. His primary duty was to control issuance of materials and supplies. Making sure everyone on base had supplies, vehicles, and the correct equipment was a daunting task.

Larry worked with the Marine Corps, Kellogg-Brown and Root, and the British. He scheduled equipment for KBR, and furnished the British with equipment to minimize damage to mosques and refineries.

The workload was very heavy in Kuwait, he said. There were many demands and requests laid upon Larry.

“The most challenging thing was integrating into the Army environment as a civilian. I had to shift gears from the type of logistics work I do here to what they needed me for in Kuwait. It did cause a little stress,” said Larry.

“My greatest accomplishment would be satisfying the many requests, one-at-a-time.” There was only one other person working with him in logistics. He had to manage requests for



*Chief of Logistics, Larry Dunaway.*



*Ed Mason, information management office, and Larry Dunaway, logistics chief, pose with unknown comrade in Kuwait.*

transportation, equipment, and supplies on a daily basis. “It felt great to know that I was supplying everyone with the materials they needed.” It left

him with very little leisure time. He worked every day, very hard and very long.

With the little free time he had, Larry had the chance to

drive around Kuwait City and do some sightseeing. He was unable to meet many local people or try exotic foods. “I was taking care of our troops,” he said. He stayed dedicated to his goals, and made sure everyone was taken care of.

He did receive royal treatment however. “I got crowned in Kuwait,” he said. He chipped a tooth while eating popcorn and was sent to a Kuwait City private dentist where his tooth was crowned with royal metal and porcelain. “It was entertaining and something I don’t think I will forget,” he said.

On the day of his departure he was presented an award from Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, SWD commander, for all his efforts and hard work to helping the Iraqi people and restoring the country’s infrastructure.

When Larry got home, one of the first things he wanted to do was go to a local restaurant and have a good meal. When asked how he felt to be back he said, “I took it as an opportunity to give back for all the freedoms myself, my family and friends enjoy. I would go back and do it again with no hesitation. We have a lot to be thankful for in this country. But, it’s great to be back in paradise.”



*Tom Hunt, Bay Area Office, demonstrates surveying equipment.*

## School’s in session at Galveston District

A recent prospect training class out of Huntsville, AL, brought a group of Corps employees and engineering students from all over the country together at the Galveston District dock. The group was in Galveston for training in surveying. Tom Hunt arranged for them to load up Galveston District’s survey boats and view

demonstrations of surveying capabilities, hear explanations of the new features of the surveying software, and see various surveys of the ocean floor. Hunt, Chris Rossi, Mike Sells, Ed Huff, Jerry Sonnier, Tim Updike, Jose Vargas, and Alfonso Rivera are District personnel involved with the class and demonstrations.

### Knoll Plan continued from page 1 . . .

all human remains and archeological materials from the site, and then make the remains available for reburial as soon as possible. Observations and measurements of the skeletal remains will be performed to obtain information on the age, height and sex of the individuals, general health, disease and, in some cases, cause of death.

But there are some types of critical information that cannot be obtained without taking small samples of bone for analysis.

This information includes the age of the burials, the genetic relationships among individuals in the cemetery and the possible migration of these people. To obtain this information, radiocarbon dating, stable isotope analysis and DNA analysis will be performed.

“All of the skeletal remains will not be sampled as recom-

mended by some of the archeological interests,” said Jan Stokes, Corps archeologist. “Because of concerns expressed by the Native American tribes who were consulted, and out of respect for the human remains, the samples obtained for destructive analysis has been limited to the amount necessary to obtain statistically valid results. The human remains and associated mortuary goods will be released for eventual reburial at the site of origin.”

The site was found near the Channel to Victoria, an existing navigation channel that has been deepened and widened by the district. The archeological site is located on property owned by DuPont Textiles and Interiors.

DuPont is the owner of the site, and steward of all recovered remains and materials.

# Corps receives thanks from TRA for assisting after Hurricane Allison

A group from Galveston District received formal thanks from the Trinity River Authority for helping out in an emergency situation caused by Hurricane Allison. Col. Leonard Waterworth, Herbie Maurer, Arthur Janecka, Bruce Bennett, Kim McLaughlin and Richard Tomlinson made the trip to Lake Livingston June 9, 2003. The Trinity River Authority operates and maintains the lake.

Two years ago, tropical storm Allison reaped havoc across Texas. Due to rapidly raising water levels, Lake Livingston dam was pushed to its limit. Erosion at the end of the tail way, or spillway, was jeopardizing the dam. TRA was in desperate need of an emergency permit to build a weir, which would save the dam.

"I have great pride in the district for meeting this demanding requirement," said Col. Waterworth.

The river authority requested an emergency permit to build an underwater structure called a weir. When constructed at the base of a spillway, or tail way, weirs reduce effects of erosion by water displacement.

"When the floodgates were opened water spilled down the tail way and because of the storm dropping so much precipitation, whitewater was churning at the end of the tail way. Within a few days, a hole was forming in the earth beneath the tail way. Everyday, the cavity crept closer to the base of the dam. These problems were endangering the integrity of Lake Livingston dam. It was an urgent request made to the Corps, and it was important to satisfy the request. We finished the permit in ten days, which is just unheard of!" explained Richard Tomlinson.

Kim McLaughlin, project manager, said, "They requested

an emergency permit, which can only be issued if the requester can prove failure to obtain the permit would result in loss of life, hefty economical burdens, or devastation of property. Emergency permits are very rare."

According to Bruce Bennett, regulatory section leader, it traditionally takes a minimum of 60 days to issue a permit. Most permits take three to four months. There was a meeting to gather information and coordinate the request.

"Kim submitted a statement to the Division Engineer in Dallas explaining what justified the situation as an emergency, and upon approval, the permit was granted to TRA," he said.

"Hard work and a quick response to a demanding situation saved the TRA millions of dollars of damage and preserved public safety," said Col Waterworth, "As the

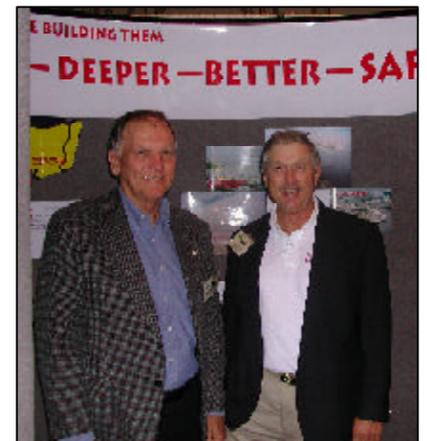
commander I am proud to see how we make an impact."

"TRA is a great federal partner, working closely with our permit program," said Bruce Bennett.

"Most employees never a full appreciation for the impact their work bestows on partners and customers," said Col Waterworth, "Galveston district is doing a great job for Texas. The speedy response to a demanding request gained another success story for the district."

The group was treated to a tour of the facility and the lake and a power point show expressing thanks and explaining the TRA organization. The attendees were surprised to learn that the management of Lake Livingston is only a small part of their responsibilities. They concentrate on waste water treatment.

## District visits "Windy City" for WEDA conference



Herbie Maurer and Danny Wyatt, standing in front of the district's display at conference.

On June 10-13, 2003, the Galveston District attended the Western Dredging Association (WEDA) and Texas A&M's 35th Annual Dredging Seminar in Chicago, Ill.

"By us coming to these conferences, we are giving businesses the opportunity to see what we do and what they can do for us," said Herbie Maurer, deputy commander and chief of programs and projects management.

At the conference, Herbie Maurer was elected to the board of directors for the dredging association. Whereas, Danny Wyatt, chief of safety, made a presentation on maritime safety initiatives.

District employees in attendance were Herbie Maurer, Danny Wyatt, Marilyn Uhrich and Michele Casteline.



## LDP is looking for a few good men or women

*Apply to be a Member of the Leadership Development Program*

Once again, "Open Season" is upon us for the 2003 class in the District Leadership Development Program (LDP). This program is a critical part of the District's drive to reach its full potential, a method utilized to seek out people with the potential to be leaders and giving them the opportunity through various initiatives of developing to their potential. Participant's in the LDP experience situations, which allow them to develop more expertise in decision-making, personal development, communications and organizational methodologies. These skills are important at all levels in the District.

The LDP is open to all employees of the Galveston District who demonstrate leadership potential and have an interest in self-development. All applicants must be federal full-time, permanent, career employees. Applicants may apply or be nominated by their immediate supervisor or Division/Office Chief. The LDP Committee will make candidate recommendations to the Commander for final approval. Deadline for applicants is August 29, 2003.

An email message addressing LDP applications will be coming out to the District soon. All the forms you have to submit are available on the Form Flow Software on the LAN. Don't wait until the last moment to put your information together. This is an opportunity to help the District and yourself.

To apply for the LDP the applicant must:

- Complete a Statement of Interest in the Program (SWG Form 635-R-E)
- Submit a resume displaying the applicant's ability or potential to lead using the following criteria
  - Personal information (name, address, and phone number)
  - Job/position experience (specifically note leadership experience)
  - Formal education (high school, junior college, four-year university, etc.)
  - Formal training courses completed within the last 5 years (supervisory, coaching, public speaking, etc.)
  - List books, magazines, video- and audiotapes completed within last 2 years (management, leadership, communications, etc.)
  - Awards received within the last 3 years.
  - All honorary awards (Commanders Award, Certificate of Achievement Award, Meritorious Civilian Service Award, etc.)
  - Professional registrations and technical certifications.
  - Professional and Community Activities and Accomplishments (Team Coordinator, Federal Women's Program, etc.) or outside volunteer activities.
- Submit copies of past two years Performance Appraisals (DA Form 7222 or DA Form 7223)
- Applicant's Supervisor and Division/Office Chief will complete the nomination process with their Evaluation of the Applicant's Leadership Potential (SWG Form 636-R-E)

Once your application package is complete it may be submitted to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Galveston District  
ATTN: CESWG-DE  
PO Box 1229  
Galveston, TX 77553-1229

# Hurricane Claudette's Aftermath

## After a day of being closed, Galveston District surveys damage

Hurricane Claudette blew in such strong winds and heavy rain on Tuesday, July 15, that Col. Leonard Waterworth gave the order to close the district for the day.

"My first and foremost concern is the safety of my employees," said Col. Waterworth.

The day after Claudette, the emergency office deployed teams out to the various affected areas to assess the damage.

The teams inspected federal projects and non-federal facilities, along with surveying channel closures, sunken craft, and levee breaches

The repair of damages

resulting from Hurricane Claudette may need a permit from the Corps. The Galveston District advises that the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized structure or fill that was serviceable immediately prior to the storm event. Such repair, rehabilitation, or replacement must not result in a deviation from the plans of the original structure and the structure to be repaired, rehabilitated, or replaced must not be put to a different use from that which was previously intended and authorized.

For more information, please contact Janet Thomas-Botello.



Walkway at Matagorda beach shows severe damage. According to reports, 60 percent of homes on Matagorda beach sustained damage. Photo taken by Colorado River Locks Lockmaster, Simon DeSoto.



Debris on the lower Colorado River. Photo taken by Colorado River Locks Lockmaster, Simon DeSoto.



Geotube now exposed from storm at Rollover Pass. Photo taken by Rob Thomas, planning section.

### Windmills continued from page 1 . .

test the system and to assure that it doesn't hurt birds or interrupt their flyways.

Wind turbines work the exact opposite of a fan. Instead of using electricity to make wind, like a fan, turbines use the wind to make electricity. Almost all wind turbines producing electricity consist of rotor blades that rotate around a horizontal hub. The hub is connected to a gearbox and generator, which are located inside the nacelle. The nacelle is the large part at the top of the tower where all the electrical components are located. Most wind turbines have three blades that face into the wind. The wind turns the blades around, this spins the shaft, which connects to a generator. This is where the electricity is made.

A generator is a machine that produces electrical energy from mechanical energy, as opposed to an electric motor that does the opposite.

Wind turbines start operating at a wind speed of around 10 miles an hour and

reach maximum power output at around 33 miles per hour. At very high winds, 50+ miles per hour, or adverse weather the wind turbines shut down, even though the blades are designed to withstand wind up to 120 mph. The towers can endure wind of 130 mph to 150 mph.

A wind turbine typically lasts around 20-25 years. During this time, as with a car, some parts may need replacing. The very first of the mass-produced turbines celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in May 2002. The machine operated steadily throughout its lifetime without having any of its major components replaced. The wind farm is proposed to be located on 2,400 acres of land at three sites on Pelican Island; on U.S. Corps of Engineers placement area, Port of Galveston property, and undeveloped land owned by the Port of Houston.

The wind farm project would also include a small desalinization plant to convert saltwater to drinking water. The plant would initially produce

4,000 gallons of water per hour, which would be about 3 percent of the total freshwater requirement for Galveston Island. This plant could provide emergency water for the port, the University of Texas Medical Branch and for the city of Galveston. Plans for the wind farm and the desalinization plant would be part of the port's renewable energy program that is now under way. Wind turbines are virtually omission free, which is particularly important when the federal government is requiring the reduction of fossil fuel emissions.

In addition, new source hydrogen, a byproduct from the desalinization plant, will be used by a fuel cell to produce electricity.

"It could be rented to the development company for fair market rental or some sort of trade for electricity might be within the boundaries of regulations," said Rick Harrison, Chief of Real Estate.

## District's Cryptogram

Clue:

*The Colonel's new slogan*

W=E

Q=K

UW'FW IEW ZNDI  
WBBVSVMWI

CVDIFVSI YMC U  
W YFW IEW ZNC  
WK

BNF UEYI YKK S  
NFTD CVDIFVSI

DENRKC KNNQ K  
VQW VM IEW BRI  
RFW.

NRF BRIRFW VD  
GFVAEI GYDWC  
NM

PNRF EYFC UNF  
Q. QWWT VI RT!

Answer on page 8.



# Boating is *still* a game of basics

*The original version of this article was titled "Boating: A Game of Basics". It first appeared in the July 2001 issue of Telltales magazine and became the first in a regular series of articles by the Galveston District concerning boating safety around dredges on the Houston Ship Channel and to keep stakeholders informed of progress and changing conditions as the deepening and widening of the channel advances. The basic message of the original article remains unchanged after two years and is offered again as a reminder that boating, like any activity, required a knowledge and continuous application of fundamental procedures.*

The accidental death of a contract worker on a Corps of Engineers dredging project in December 2000 near Houston Ship Channel Light 82 offers fundamental lessons for both commercial and recreational mariners.

The worker drowned after falling into the water when the workboat on which he was a passenger was struck by an inbound tow traveling at a reported speed of 8.5 knots.

The workboat docked at the dredge about 15 minutes to load a crew of four employees and then headed across the ship channel to confirm instructions for the day with the dredge captain. The vessel backed away from the dredge, completed a forward turn to port and collided with the tow.

The workboat captain, a licensed operator for over 20 years, testified he looked both ways before backing. He further testified he saw no lights on the barge and did not notice the navigation lights on the tow until just before impact.

The pilot of the inbound tow reported he saw the workboat approximately 10 seconds before impact, at a distance of 80 - 100 feet. After the collision, the tow pilot requested assistance from the dredge and immediately notified the Coast Guard of the incident.

Three workers, all wearing Personal Flotation Devices (PFD), fell from the workboat into the water. Two made their way back to the dredge. Finding the third person was difficult because of the darkness but his body was found approximately 30 minutes later, about 200 feet downstream

from the dredge.

With every accident an investigation is conducted. We are sharing some lessons learned from this tragedy, not to point a finger of blame, but to make people more aware.

We hope this knowledge will help cut down on the tragic loss of life through boating accidents.

What factors contributed to this accident? Many things have to be considered, such as possible loss of night vision by the captain that could have been caused from looking at the bright lights of the dredge. The workboat was not monitoring VHF Channel 13, therefore, the captain could not know the tow operator was hugging the dredge side of the channel at 8.5 knots in an attempt to allow a trailing ship to pass. The dredging operator was unaware of the arrival and departure of the workboat and could provide no warning of the approaching tow. Water temperature was 46 degrees Fahrenheit and could have contributed to the death of the drowned victim.

Once the accident occurred, other factors entered the picture. Initially, it was not known that a worker was in the water. Several valuable minutes passed before this fact was realized. Although the victim wore a proper personal flotation device, his PFD did not have a light, making recovery extremely difficult.

The victim's clothing provided little protection against cold water. It is essential to wear clothing that offers insulation when wet as the human body loses heat approximately 25 times greater in water than in air.

Once the body was found, a 40-foot crew boat was summoned to recover it. However, the high freeboard of the crew boat made it impossible to recover the 260-pound worker. A nearby skiff with lower side-clearance was summoned. It still required four workers to lift the body into this small boat. By that time, sixty minutes had passed—the survival limit for most adults in water this temperature. Even if the worker had been alive when found, he probably would have expired by this time from hypothermia.

We now realize that the typical overboard drill - tossing a PFD overboard is, then recovering it with a boat hook -

is unrealistic. There is a big difference between snagging a PFD and recovering an adult body weighed down with waterlogged clothing.

After reviewing information about this incident, the Galveston District initiated a safety review meeting with our contractors and project engineers.

The meeting was so successful, we have now established these meetings quarterly. The attendee list has been expanded to include ship pilots, water survival specialists, the towing industry, recreational boaters, Coast Guard marine safety personnel, and other Corps of Engineer districts.

We are currently reviewing various types of PFDs, PFD lights, PFD construction, overboard recovery systems, boat operator training, improved navigation lights for barges, lookout requirements, radio monitoring requirements and other topics that could improve the safety of dredging operations.

We have modified our Houston ship channel hydraulic dredging contracts to require a full time lookout in the control room. One of our contractors has supplied all workers on one of their dredges with water activated lights for their PFDs as well as whistles. By joining efforts, we prove the best approach is TEAM - Together Each Accomplishes More.

In summary, here are the lessons learned: Wear proper personal equipment. Always wear a PFD and make sure it is equipped with a light and sound-making device. A water-activated light and whistle cost only a few dollars. Either could possibly have saved this worker's life.

Avoid the use of high output lights at night, such as bright cabin lights, bright flashlights, and spotlights if possible. It takes the average adult over 30 minutes to regain proper night vision from even a split second exposure to high illumination. So use only the amount of light necessary for the task and shield the watch crew if bright lights have to be utilized.

Recreational boaters should always monitor VHF Channel 13, not 16, when operating within the boundaries of the Houston Ship Channel. The skipper should know exactly who and how many passengers are aboard. In the event of



collision, immediately make a head count to determine if anyone is missing. Have a person overboard plan. Rehearse and practice it so that each person knows exactly what to do. This will avoid confusion at a time when every minute could make a difference.

Monitor the appropriate VHF radio channels, for traffic conditions, especially when operating in busy commercial areas like the Houston Ship Channel. A waterproof hand held radio should be kept within an arms length in a floating pouch. At night, secure it by a lanyard or attach it to your PFD. It could be your key to getting rapid assistance in case of emergency.

Have equipment and procedures for contingencies. Our experience has shown it is exceedingly difficult to lift an adult body from the water. Even if your boat has a ladder, an injured or hypothermic person might be incapable of using it. Equip your boat with a person overboard recovery device and practice using it. A simple hand operated purchase system, such as those used for boom vang, might be sufficient. Use your radio to summon help immediately.

Boaters should wear clothing that will reduce heat loss if you go overboard, even in the summer. Although cotton is a favorite fabric of local boaters because of its comfort in our hot, humid climate, it offers no insulation when wet.

Finally, we recommend you not cast off without the most important safety preparation of all nautical education. Groups such as the US Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary, offer excellent, low cost courses taught by experienced boaters. In my opinion, taking a class could be the best boating investment you will ever make.

This incident reminds us again of the hazards encountered while operating a vessel on one of the world's busiest waterways.

According to the 2002 U.S. Coast Guard Houston Vessel Traffic Service statistics, 19,016 ships and 110,651 tows transited the channel last year. This works out to an average of a ship or

See Basic on page 7 . .

Basic continued from page 6 . . .

tow every four minutes. This does not include the almost 12,000 misc. vessels, such as offshore supply boats. With this level of traffic, you can see why it is a good idea to avoid the ship channel whenever possible, especially at night or other periods of low visibility.

In addition to all the ships and tows, dredging activities remain a concern of vessel operators on Galveston Bay as the deepening and widening project of the Houston Ship Channel continues. One bit of good news is the Manson Construction dredge, *Newport*, has finished its activities in the Galveston Entrance Channel almost three months early.

The hopper Dredges *B.E. Lindholm* and *R.N. Weeks* continue dredging between Lights Markers 51 and 57, with dredged material is being transported to the offshore placement area. The operations are timed so that neither dredge is excavating the channel at the same time.

The offshore placement area is located outside the Galveston jetties, south of the Entrance Channel. Mariners are cautioned not to traverse or anchor within the limits of the placement area, as it will interfere with dredging operations. Vessels anchored within the placement area will be asked to move. Coordinates of the placement area's four corners, referenced to NAD 83 (degrees-minutes) are as follows: Latitude 29-15N/94-40°W; 29°14N/94°41W; 29°12N/94°39W; 29-13N/94-43W

The Weeks Marine pipeline dredge *Tom James* is working in Houston Ship Channel vicinity Marker 73 and progressing inbound. Material is being pumped to the new Mid Bay Marsh site, which is located on the east side of the channel near Marker 70. Shallow draft boat operators are advised that a dredge pipeline crosses the new North Boater Cut. The natural cut near Marker 68 will be closed in the near future as construction proceeds on the Mid Bay placement area. Boaters are advised to use either Five-Mile Cut or the South Boater Cut near HSC Marker 62 for access east of Houston Ship Channel.

The Bean-Stuyvesant dredge *Meridian* is presently dredging on the green side above the Fred Hartman bridge near the Exxon dock. This area can present close quarters when ships pass. Therefore, boaters who venture

this far up the channel are cautioned to keep a close lookout for ship traffic, anticipating dangers in advance to avoid a hazardous situation.

Work will begin around the end of July or the first part of August 2003 to dredge approximately 13,000 feet of the Trinity Channel that leads into Smith Point to 10 feet deep. This should enable most boaters to access the area.

Great Lakes Dock and Dredge will begin operations in August for about 14 months of dredging the ship channel from approximately Light 114 to the Lynchburg Ferry with the dredge *California*.

The *California* is an electric dredge and consists of two large barges. Boaters are urged to give this, and all dredging activities, as wide a berth as possible.

Keep in mind also that with almost any dredging activity, the dredge is only a part of the total operation. Lookout must also be kept for the accompanying crew boats, tug boats, survey boats, dredge tenders and other support craft.

Our experiences in the Galveston District can hopefully increase your safety and enjoyment on the water. Here's wishing you a great time while boating on our marvelous Galveston Bay!

## District's support for others

As part of the Corps commitment to our partners we proceed with continuous support of others. Federal agencies have been decreasing their resources and no longer have the in-house capabilities like the corps such as project management, engineering divisions, and planning.

The SFO program used to be more involved with state, county and municipal agencies but that has changed because local engineers, contractors and other workers felt their jobs were being taken away. The Corps has a tendency to be the engineer of choice when it comes to other agencies because of our high perception of professionalism and quality. It is an opportunity for us to maintain and hone core capabilities like project management, engineering, and planning. We provide a more efficient means for their projects, meaning we do not have profit built in with the cost. We work based on cost reimbursement, they hire us and then they pay 100%. The Corps and federal agencies contract with the scope of work, cost and administrative details all planned out.

The Corps does not just do complete projects for other agencies, we also do sections

of larger projects. Agencies like Environmental Protection Agency and Superfund come to us for large portions of projects. SFO is currently working on several projects ranging from BRIO and TEXTIN projects, which are superfund design and construction projects we oversee, to the Rio Grande project in which we maintain levee inspections.

Who approaches whom with ideas and projects can be done in two ways. A lot of our partners are ones we have worked with on other projects. But for new projects other agencies contact us. Since the Corps operates so efficiently and because we operate based on the "One Door to the Corps" motto, projects are distributed to districts from the Architect and Engineer Resource Center (AERC). The Corps' national office located in Fort Worth, TX. It is a central management office that distributes projects geographically or based on expertise. For example the INS and Border Patrol Station, now known as Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), is in the Fort Worth District but is sent to us because of our location and expertise.

## Wellness:



### Identity Theft – What it is and how to prevent it

Each month for the last several months, employees of the Galveston District have enjoyed monthly presentations by UTMB's Work Programs/Outpatient Rehab Services.

In June, Jami Ryan of UTMB presented "Identity Theft and What it Means to You."

Here is some information excerpted from her presentation that may help enlighten you about the subject and how you might protect yourself from identity thieves.

Identity theft (or Identity Fraud) is a crime in which an imposter obtains the key pieces of info such as Social Security Number, driver's license to obtain credit, merchandise and services in the name of the victim. The victim is left with a ruined credit history and a time-consuming, complicated task of regaining financial health.

**What can a thief do with the information he obtains about you?** Steal money from existing accounts; apply for loans; establish new accounts with utility companies; rent an apartment/house; file bankruptcy; apply/obtain a job using false name.

**What can you do to minimize your risk?** Routinely shred papers with personal ID and account #'s – purchase a shredder that cuts vertically through papers such as pre-approved credit applications; photocopy the contents of your wallet, both front and back. In case it is stolen, you will know which credit card companies you must contact immediately; if ATM or debit cards are stolen, report it immediately to your bank, lest you be responsible for charges you didn't make.

**Tips on how to prevent identity theft:** shred all documents with personal information; be careful at ATMs and using phone cards; get your

checks delivered to your bank; do not put checks in the mail from home, drop them off at the post office; when ordering new credit cards or yours have expired, watch calendar to make sure you get them in the appropriate timeframe; when someone calls you and wants personal info that you do not know, never give it out, call them back at the number you know to be a true number for that company; order your credit report at least twice a year to review carefully.

**To get off promotional lists:** Order your credit report at least twice a year to review carefully; immediately correct all mistakes on your credit report in writing; take your name off all promo lists and opt out of pre-approved offers; make a list of all accounts and account numbers and customer service numbers and keep in a safe place; do not keep this list on the hard drive of your computer if you are connected to the Internet.

# Texas heat has arrived, be aware of heat injury

submitted by Danny Wyatt

It's that time of year again! Sweltering heat and work can result in heat related injuries. Fortunately, heat injuries are preventable. Three variables interact to cause heat injuries: the climate (temperature and humidity); intensity of activity; individual risk factors (fitness level, medications)

Heat injury occurs when a person loses excessive fluids through sweating and fails to adequately replenish water and in some cases salt (more on salt later). The risk of heat injury is increased with the use of heavy or impermeable clothing, i.e. welding leather, and intense

prolonged activity. Those who are not adapted or acclimatized to hot environments are at a higher risk for heat injury.

Supervisors must take the following actions to prevent heat injuries: enforce appropriate cool water intake and work/rest cycles; drink a cup of water every 15-20 minutes; ensure that TEAM members wear light, loose fitting, breathable clothing, such as cotton. However, please remember that short pants and muscle type shirts are prohibited.

All must remember that fluid intake must be increased during times of hot weather, especially

for those involved in strenuous activities. Heat stress accumulates during sequential days of strenuous activity. Salt tablets are unnecessary as most of us consume more than enough salt to make up for salt loss from sweating. And, the US Army Center for Health and Preventive Medicine, NIOSH, OSHA and the Corps do not recommend sports drinks to make up for the loss of salt. For those of you on a low salt diet, you should consult with your physician for recommendations. So, be careful when you are outside.

Continued HURRIVAC from page 1 . .

personnel, but because the information can be misinterpreted it requires training. Those who choose not to use the HURRIVAC system, or have not yet made the change, are not in danger, however. "There are multiple tools available for private industry," said Dailey.

HURRIVAC will provide decision makers with more information to determine evacuation times. "It can indicate low points, examine evacuation routes, and can aid us in responding to changes more effectively", said Dailey.

## Castle Comments

### Light the Candles



Thomas Mason	July 2
Jerald Hood	July 3
Robert Sherwood	July 3
Ryan Fordyce	July 3
Carol Nelson	July 5
Eric Willmore	July 6
Joe Hrametz	July 7
Billy Christmas	July 7
Ishaq Shed	July 7
Ella Cassity	July 9
Ronnie Benavides	July 11
Marie Patillo	July 12
Floyd Wright	July 12
Ramon Sierra	July 12
Rhett Campbell	July 12
Leigh Ann Adams	July 16
Ryan Brown	July 16
Scott Leimer	July 18
Michael Diaz	July 18
Matt Kimmel	July 18
Richard McDonald	July 19
Pat Salinas	July 19
Randolph Batiste	July 19
Faye Arenz	July 19
Gus Marinos	July 20
Abel de Leon	July 20
Rafael Rubalcaba	July 21
Demetrice Jones	July 22
Malcolm Sedtal	July 22
Cindy Jones	July 24
Lavonne Collins	July 24
John Davidson	July 26
Joel Patlan	July 26
David Petit	July 27
Terry Bautista	July 27
Terry Heatherly	July 29
Kanu Patel	July 29
Marianne Sefcik	July 29
Karl Brown	July 29
Sandra Byron	July 30
Jose Castro-Rivera	July 31

### Congrats to the Grandparents

Carl Anderson, project management, became a grandpa for the second time on June 21. Hope Elizabeth was born at 5:30 pm to his son, Michael, and wife. She weighed 7 lbs. 2 ozs.

Gary Johnson, Brazos River floodgates, became a grandpa for the third time on June 18. Ashley Dawn was born at 6:30 pm to his son, Gary Jr. and his wife, Tanya. She weighed 8lbs. 4ozs.

Congratulations goes to our new ranger at Wallisville, Ruth Millsaps. Her son and his wife, Josh and Amy Millsaps, presented her with a second grandchild June 7. He is Cody Lynn and weighed 9 lbs. 8 ozs. and has reddish gold hair. His big sister Jessica is glad to have a little brother to play with now.

### Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to Herbie Maurer, executive office, who celebrated 39 years of marriage with wife, Gloria, July 12.

### Wedding Bells

Shari Odom, who served as editor of the Sand Castle several times during the 1990s, has changed her name to Shari Odom Fultz. The happy couple live in Friendswood. Shari is working as a technical editor for SAIC located at Ellington Field.

### Answer to cryptogram

We're the most efficient district and we are the model for what all Corps districts should look like in the future. Our future is bright based on your hard work. Keep it up!

### Get Well Soon..

One of our long time co-workers, Jake Bourgeois, northern area office, was diagnosed with advanced Esophageal Cancer. His doctors have found a large tumor in his esophagus. Jake will be starting radiation and chemotherapy at MD Anderson Hospital within the next few days in hopes of shrinking the tumor enough for surgery to be an option. We are also looking into blood donations for Jake as he has already received a total of 13-pints within a weeks time.

Please keep Project Management Chief, Arthur Janecka in your thoughts and prayers. Art went through major surgery at MD Anderson on June 26. He was released from the hospital on July 2. He is still weak and a little sore, but is recovering. Art's family appreciates everyone's kind wishes and thanks employees who participated in the group prayer.

One of our favorite employees in Real Estate is under the weather. Sal Arcidiacono was admitted at UTMB the first week of July. His blood pressure had gone down and he was placed on dialysis to reduce high potassium. He was also having a lot of problems with his internal organs and lungs.

The district held a prayer session for Sal and within one hour after the session Sal told his son he was going to beat this. He has now been diagnosed with infectious pneumonia. He is off of the dopamine and his blood pressure is stable as is his temperature. He and his family are grateful to everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

### Condolences

Our sympathy goes out to the Stewart family at their time of need. Former Lockmaster of the Brazos River Floodgates, Gail Stewart passed away last month at the age of 86.

Please keep Charlie Stimmel, auditor, in your thoughts and prayers. His father passed away on July 2. As most of you know, Charlie is from Long Island so he made the trip there to be with his family.

Doris Jeanne Casey, retiree from Regulatory, published author, curmudgeon, and cat lover passed away at the age of 81.

Please keep James Benham's family in your thoughts and prayers. His father-in-law, Raymond McClain passes away July 13.

### New Website

The Galveston District is pleased to announce the launching of the USACE Employment Homepage. This provides potential applicants one-stop access to all USACE CPAC websites.

We invite you to view the website at <http://www.usace.army.mil/employment>

### Parking at Jadwin

The six parking spaces to the right (east) of the handicap spaces immediately in front of the Jadwin Bldg. are reserved for visitors. Please leave them open for visitors. Security has been advised and will begin issuing citations to any violators.