

Building a Bridge



Photo by Pedro Luciano

*Offering a helping hand to hurricane-ravaged Nicaragua - a job so big, it took three districts to manage it.
See Page 4.*

In This Issue:

On the River

Even on holidays, work's a steady stream at the Marmet Locks & Dam. **See Page 6.**



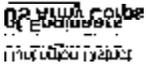
Getting Answers

Tracking down important information will soon be a lot easier. **See Page 9.**





Castle Comments



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Smiles out to:



To all those who donated to the CFC campaign and helped make it a record year for giving.



To Rebecca Rutherford, who represented the Corps at Milton Middle School's Career Day.



To Kim Courts Brown and her husband Troy, who will play in this year's NFL Pro Bowl.



To everyone in the Huntington District for their part in earning the 5-Star Safety Recognition.

Partners in Education

By Chuck Minsker
Public Affairs

The Huntington District has tackled major construction projects in the past, including structures like our nine locks and dam, 35 flood-control dams and 14 floodwalls.

But the Corps is about to take on a different undertaking: building six new schools for the McDowell County 202 Nonstructural flood control project.

Project Manager Dwight Smith said, "Although this is a little bit unusual for the Corps, we have built other schools in the program, two in Mingo County, W.Va. and one in Pike County, Ky."

The McDowell County 202 project is part of the ongoing effort to avoid the damage caused by the devastating flood that hit West Virginia residents along the Tug Fork in April 1977.

The key part of the project is to offer flood protection to 988 residential and non-residential structures in the 1977 flood plain area.

The 202 program gets its title from the section in the legislation directing the Corps of Engineers to provide flood protection to the areas flooded in 1977 in Southern West Virginia, Kentucky, and Virginia.

The program is voluntary and homeowners and businesses may choose not to be protected. If they elect to be in the program, their properties will either undergo floodproofing by raising the structure in place or by demolishing the structure and relocating the homeowners to a flood-safe area.

The project also includes the relocation of several town halls and fire stations, and the floodproofing of five elementary schools and one high school. The estimated total project cost is \$172 million.

Work on the project is already underway. The original plan called for three of the six schools to be rebuilt in a flood-safe area and three others to be protected by ring walls.

These plans were changed when the McDowell County School Board sent a letter to the Corps requesting that the five elementary schools be consolidated into two. The Board wanted to combine Berwind, Bartley, and War Elementary Schools, and to combine Iaeger and Panther Elementary Schools.

The price tag for all six schools is estimated at \$38 million.

The consolidation of the five elementary schools meant the Corps had to amend the original agreement.

Then in November another event took place, as the school system in McDowell County was taken over by the West Virginia Board of Education.

The only change the State Board has requested was to enlarge the new Iaeger High School to make room for students from Big Creek High School, which the Board plans to close.

That will not change the cost of the project since it would be considered a betterment and would be paid for by the Board. Construction on the replacement for Iaeger High School could start as early as 2004, and the construction of the two elementary schools will soon follow.



Photo by Dwight Smith
Iaeger High School is one of the structures that will be torn down after a new structure is built in a flood safe area.

Commander's Corner

New Year Means New Challenges



By **COL JOHN RIVENBURGH**
District Engineer

Happy New Year. 2002 is now upon us and there is much to look forward to and much to do. I hope and pray each of you had an enjoyable and restful holiday period. Diane, Joseph and I certainly did.

Our team faces significant challenges in this New Year. We have lots of work to do. All our project managers are diligently working with their teams and stakeholders to meet our customer's requirements. This is tough business - delivering projects on time within budget requires everyone's commitment. We owe it to the citizens of our great Nation to settle for nothing but the very best - from each other and ourselves. You've got to be able to look at yourself in the mirror and say, "I've done my best". Many years ago, our USACE motto was "We're proud to sign our work". Not a bad moniker to live by.

Much of the work we do involves risk. Each and every one of you is terribly valuable to your family, your community and our Huntington District Team. Take care of yourself. Be safe! Follow our Chief's guidance by being fit. Watch out for your neighbor. I like seeing your smiling faces in the elevator and at your places of work. When in doubt, ask your supervisor.

We have three training to complete this fiscal year. I ask every one of you to be diligent in meeting these requirements. Consideration of Others (CO2) is an opportunity to improve how we work together by discussing pertinent organizational issues within our own workplaces. The first topic is Beliefs and Values and what they mean to me. Your supervisor will lead the discussions, but your participation is necessary for success.

Our Corps of Engineers has developed a self-paced, CD or intranet based training package called Corps Path. We'll be starting the training later this winter. Completing Corps Path will ensure that all our team members are working off the same corporate sheet of music. We'll better understand our organization and how it works. Finally, this summer we'll receive training in the Corps Business Process. The way we do business and how we will do business in the future. We're asking a lot, please work through these diligently.

I continue to be extremely proud to serve you as your commander. Our Nation can rest easily knowing its best and brightest are working for them as members of our Huntington District team. Keep up the good work and may God Bless You and the United States of America.

Reminder

If you plan on retiring and would like to receive Castle Comments at home, please notify the Public Affairs office to be placed on the mailing list.

District Earns Safety Award

By **Chuck Minsker**

Safety first, safety always is part of the Corps of Engineers culture. For this reason, we in the Huntington District can take great pride in being honored with the Lakes and Ohio River Division's (LRD) highest safety award, the Five Star Safety Award.

This award recognizes districts that meet the highest standards of excellence in safety.

Safety Officer Helma German said, "It takes a team effort to win this award."

The program designed by LRD requires every element of the district meet the Corps safety standards. The first level of the program is the Seven Castle Program in which projects and offices prepared for a safety evaluation by the district safety office. When preparations were complete, projects and offices asked for an evaluation.

"We did 100 percent - not just 80 percent," German added, "because we knew that all our projects were up to par."

Each district has to run checks on each department's safety training and ensure that everyone is using the proper safety equipment.

The safety officers in the district evaluate the program and look for problem spots.

German said, "If we find a weakness in our training, this makes it easy to correct the problem."



***Photo by Steve Wright
Col. Rivenburgh and Helma German
show off the District's newest award.***

Nicaragua: After the Hurricane



Photo by Pedro Luciano

In Nicaragua, crews assemble the frame of a bridge at San Jose de Guzmata in August 2000.

By Chuck Minsker
Public Affairs

There are many different kinds of bridges, and lots of reasons to build one. To span a divide. To eliminate an obstacle. To offer a helping hand.

When Hurricane Mitch cut across Central America in the fall of 1998, it left behind incredible destruction in what was already one of the poorest regions in the Western Hemisphere.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) called for help, and the call was answered by the Corps.

Central America falls under the management of the Mobile District, but they knew no single district could manage a project of that size.

Luckily, you only have to open “One Door to the Corps” (see page 11).

Chief of Soil Section Dan Boster said, “The Central American Hurricane Mitch Recovery effort was too big for Mobile to handle alone, so they farmed Nicaragua out to the Nashville District, and they called on us. We decided to handle it as a team.”

Eight men out of the Huntington District signed on for the challenge: Boster, Ken Halstead, Pedro Luciano, Mike Robinette, Jim Rose, Jeremy Stevenson, Steve Stout and Jerry Webb.

It was a job that was difficult from the minute they arrived in Nicaragua. “We started from scratch – we had nothing,” Boster said. “There was no Corps presence in the country at all.

The initial challenge was to establish office space and a place

to live.”

Among the major items the team worked on: they built rural bridges; performed dam safety assessments; inspected damaged spillways and provided plans for repair work; provided quality control for the construction of rural clinics and housing for doctors; and performed basin studies.

One of the most important jobs was to train local officials so they’d be able to manage major projects in the future. “We didn’t want to just build it and leave,” Boster said. “We wanted to give them the ability to handle similar problems in the future.”

The team guided a transfer of technology through demonstration projects, to give engineers in Nicaragua the means of protecting



The shaded section indicates the area hardest hit by Hurricane Mitch.



Photo by Pedro Luciano
A worker begins installing the bridge decking.



Photo by Pedro Luciano
After two days, the finished bridge is ready for traffic.



Photo by Laurindo Maranhã
Dan Boster (right) checks out the local cuisine at El Cua.



Photo by Dan Boster
Construction on a rural health facility at Boaco nears completion.

existing roads and bridges that were on the verge of failing.

The team designed alternatives to help the country prepare for future hurricanes.

Some problems simply couldn't be solved. The river known as the Rio Negro actually changed its course after Hurricane Mitch, as it was diverted from Honduras

and into Nicaragua. Jerry Webb, Chief of Water Resources Engineering Branch, headed up the study to see if the river could be returned to its original state.

He said, "It was a political hot potato between Honduras and Nicaragua. Honduras lost the river, which put farmlands in danger, and the river was causing damage in Nicaragua." Unfortunately, there was no feasible way to return the river to its former course.

There were some major obstacles for the team to overcome, but the biggest was transportation.

Because the road system in the country is largely dirt roads, it took a long time to get anywhere. A usual day could involve six hours of driving over bad roads and then another two hours by canoe to get to the site.

The group saw some amazing things along the way (including some crocodiles) and helped out with a few unusual projects, including overseeing the rescue of a bull that had fallen into a large hole in the ground.

"It's a country of contrast, with very poor people

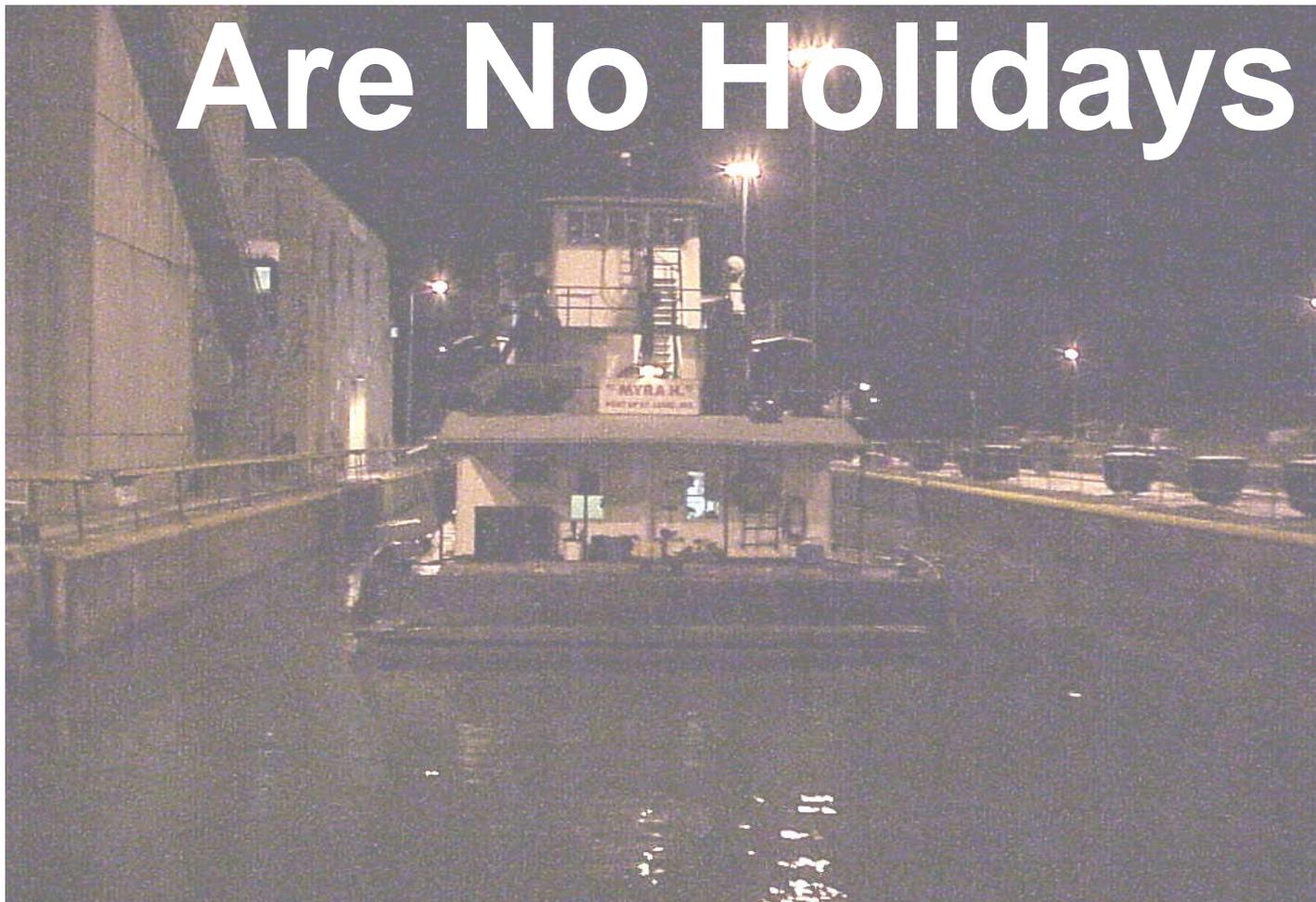


Photo by John Hunter
Dan Boster (upper left) inspects the extensive storm damage at a spillway.

Continued on Page 11

At the Locks, There

Are No Holidays



Photos By Chuck Minsker

The tugboat Myra H. waits patiently as the water level in the Marmet Locks & Dam is lowered 24 feet. On this trip it guides four large barges as it journeys down the Kanawha River.

**By Chuck Minsker
Public Affairs**

It's New Year's Eve. At the Marmet Locks and Dam, river traffic continues to line up, even as the midnight hour draws closer.

The thermometer reads 17 degrees out on the Kanawha River, and that means one thing: more work. Cold weather means more demand for coal, which means more coal barges moving through the Locks.

It may be the holiday season, but workers at the Locks know the hard facts: on the river, there are no holidays.

10:15pm – Loaded with coal, the tugboat Myra H. moves the third of four barges

into the Marmet Lock.

"You'd like to be home with your family," said Shift Leader Ron Bailey.

An 18-year veteran of the Corps, on this night he worked the evening shift with two other Operators. "We work a four-shift rotation, and that's just the way it works. For the next six years I'll be working Christmas and New Year's both – but I'm thankful for my job."

Lock & Dam Operator Earl Paxton agreed. "You can't be choosy and pick your own schedule." He smiled and added, "It's just another day."

It's the last major holiday Operator Fred Mace will spend working – he retires at the end of February. But his experience has led him to agree

with his co-workers. "Somebody has to do it."

11:15pm – The tugboat Jeffrey A. Rake moves into the second Lock with all four of its smaller barges.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, work continues on the river – especially at the Marmet Locks & Dam.

The two Locks have seen almost 16 million tons of coal pass through in the past year, earning Marmet a special title. "We're the busiest Lock in the United States," Bailey said, "because of the large number of lockages."

Marmet is one of the smallest Locks on the Kanawha River, so any tugboat passing through with big barges has



On the job around the clock, 24 hours a day/7 days a week, at the Marmet Locks & Dam. (L to R) Earl Paxton closes the gate, Fred Mace keeps an eye on a barge moving out of the lock, and Ron Bailey gets ready to hand a haulage cable to a deck hand.

to be broken into “cuts” – in other words, each barge is pushed into the Lock and then separated from the tugboat, which backs out.

The gates of the lock close and the water level is raised or lowered 24 feet to match the river level.

Each barge is connected to the Lock with a haulage cable, which the Operators use to tow the barge out of the lock. When the tugboat passes though it’s connected to the barges and it continues its journey.

For example, the Myra H. carried four barges. It took about 40 minutes each to pass the three barges through, one at a time, and then the tugboat can squeeze in with the fourth barge for the final pass.

Because of the small size of the Lock, Marmet had to perform many more lockages than the bigger facilities - almost 18,000 in the last year.

11:22pm – The Myra H. moves out of the Lock and the deck hands start running the cables that link the barges.

At 11:30pm the evening crew wraps up its shift and gets ready to go home, as the midnight crew arrives to take over.

They agree that working the holiday just comes with the territory.

Shift Leader Chuck Yanov, a 15-year veteran of the Corps, said, “Holidays aren’t so bad. This is my sixth year in a row working New Years and Christmas. That’s just the way it falls.”

Yanov says one of the benefits of shiftwork is that you get plenty of warning. He has the holidays off for the next couple of years, but in December of 2005, he’ll be at work for the holidays.

For some, a changing work schedule can extend that holiday work load. Operator Pete Burns said, “For 12 years I’ve never had a Christmas or New Year’s off.”

Luckily, he has a break coming. “I’ll get a vacation next year.”

Operator Frankie Harris is new to shift work, but after just six months on the job, he says he enjoys it. “It’s a good job – and I like that holiday pay.”

11:52pm – The Jeffrey A. Rake moves down the Kanawha River and radios a farewell message to the crew at the Lock: “See you next year, Marmet.”

Yanov laughs, “So they’ll be back in 10 minutes?”

As the midnight hour strikes, the Lock is quiet. River traffic is slow, and no boats are waiting to pass through.

As the crew deals with updating logs and doing maintenance work, they look at the clock. 2002 is here, but there’s no celebration.

It’s just another night on the job, keeping traffic moving up and down the river.



It’s 2002, as (L to R) Frankie Harris, Chuck Yanov and Pete Burns usher in the New Year at the Marmet Locks & Dam.

Why this Card is a Go

By **Chuck Minsker**
Public Affairs

As the commercial says, don't leave home without it.

Every employee of the Corps has been issued an ID Card, and we all know that they're important for security reasons.

But did you know that the card is also an important part of working in the field?

Inside the district office building, you're required to visibly display it at all times.

Outside the office, most employees have the card stashed away - but it's also a useful tool in the field.

Whenever an employee of the Corps goes on location, they should make a point to check in with the local field office and make sure those managers or officers know that they're in the neighborhood.

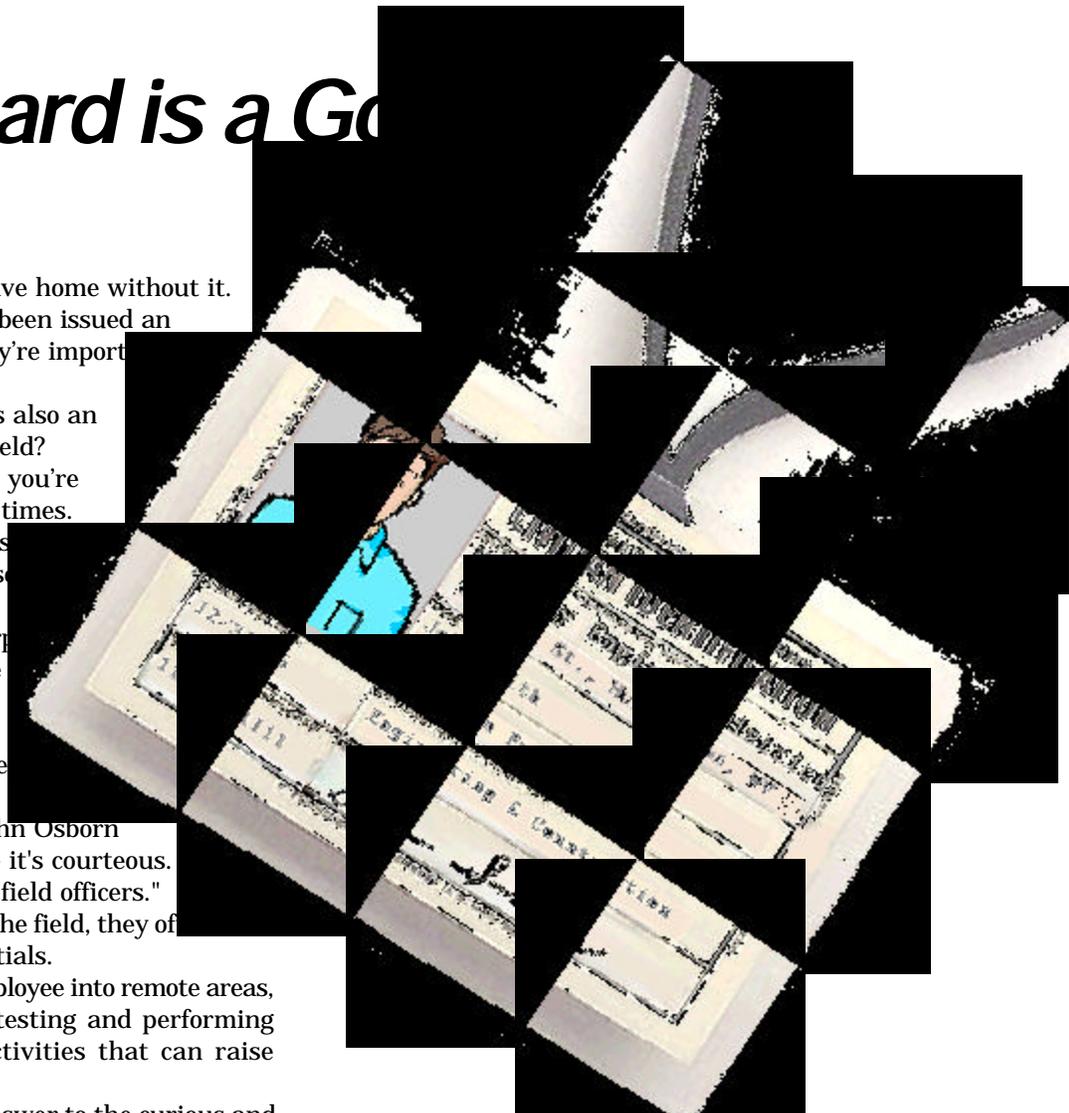
As Deputy Commander Major John Osborn said, "It's not just a good practice - it's courteous. We should extend that courtesy to field officers."

When representatives go out into the field, they often need to be ready to provide their credentials.

Field assignments can take the employee into remote areas, performing tasks like surveying, testing and performing site inspections - the kinds of activities that can raise questions among residents.

An ID card can provide a quick answer to the curious and shows that you're on official business.

"We're one organization," Osborn said, "but you should always have your ID card, whether you wear it or not. It's just good business."



**"You should always have it.
It's just good business."
- Major John Osborn**

A Record Year for Giving

Charities all over the country have seen a marked increase in donations in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon.

Fund-raising efforts also hit a high mark at the Corps District Office, as contributions to the Combined Federal Campaign of the River Cities (CFC) passed \$31,000 for the first time since the '98 - '99 campaign.

CFC Coordinator Mahala Spurlock said, "After Sept. 11, the response for charities - all charities - has drastically increased." She coordinates the program, along with several volunteers. "The Key Workers are the reason the program works," she added.

The CFC is the only charity authorized to solicit contributions from Federal Employees in the River Cities.

Each employee is invited to make a voluntary donation, either through payroll deductions or by a cash donation.

Each employee can also designate which charitable organizations will benefit from their donation. The list includes almost all of the local charities.

The final total for the past year is \$32,995.

That includes \$1,315 donated by Corps retirees. Two asked to remain anonymous, but many thanks to them and to: Mickey Ballangee, Carl Bechdolt, Fred Brothers, Pauline Collins, Mary Cyrus, John Devens, Stanley Diehl, W. S. Epps, Larry Hatfield, Charles J. Hockman, Robert King, Billy Meadows, William Miller, Charlotte Mudge, Mary Louise Ours, Robert Pugh, Pauline Ross, Jack Sales, John Schneider, John Scott, Beatrice Shumaker, Nadya Sill, Willa Slack, Kenneth Smith, Harvey Stephenson, William Theuring, Donald Thompson, Ginevra Taidman, Richard Valentine, Carroll Veach, Virginia Wilcox and Thomas Wilson.

Questions? Answers!

AKO: Your Online Connection

By **Chuck Minsker**
Public Affairs

You will soon be able to find the answers to many Army and Corps-related question online at a site called Army Knowledge Online (AKO).

"The goal of AKO is to be a one-stop place to find the information you need when you need it," according to Ken Shafer, Chief of Implementation and Requirement Branches.

AKO is designed to create a single site where everyone can find the information they need, including personnel and financial records and job-specific data.

Army civilians, soldiers and reservists can register anytime.

The ultimate goal of AKO is to provide a repository of information to benefit existing and future employees.

"This is the start of a major effort across the Army to emphasize the importance of capturing and sharing our intellectual capital and our experiences," Shafer said.

The reason for the push? In the next five years, up to 50% of Corps employees will be eligible to retire.

Locally, that number is 18%. That's a lot of knowledge and experience that could be lost to the next generation of workers.

If that information could be preserved, it would shorten the learning curve for future employees.

New information is being added to AKO daily, and it offers a variety of useful tools.

It provides an email

address that can follow you even if you move to another job site, along with custom links and instant messaging.

Each user will also be able to perform searches and customize each account.

Most local employees have already signed up. Approximately 72% of district employees have accounts on AKO.

"This is a starting point," Shafer said. "We want to get feedback from people on how to make it easier to use."

Army knowledge management concepts are also working their way down to the district level.

Within the next couple of months the District's Intranet page will incorporate AKO-like features in a system called Knowledge Dispatch.

In its present form, AKO is primarily aimed at soldiers, but eventually it's expected to provide military and civilian personnel with

AKO website:
www.us.army.mil

District website:
https://intra.lrh.usace.army.mil

the learning opportunities and career-building tools that are needed to maintain maximum efficiency.

"The goal is to make it extremely useful for each employee," according to Shafer. "The next step is to determine what people want to see and how they want to see it."

To sign up for Army Knowledge Online, go to the website at www.us.army.mil and click on "I'm a New User" to register.

ako The Army Portal
Army Knowledge Online

Wednesday January 9, 2002

Sign In

User Name:

Password:

login

I'm a New User

All Active Army, Reserve, National Guard, DA Civilian, Retired Army, and guests of the Army may register for an AKO account.

DoD Certificate

Download the DoD Certificate, an

Help **Project Information**

The Browns Go Bowling

New England wide receiver Troy Brown can look forward to spending some time in Hawaii in the near future, and you can bet his wife - who just happens to be an employee of the Corps - is also looking forward to the trip.



Troy Brown is set to appear in his first Pro Bowl.

After the regular season ends, Brown will travel to the 50th state to take part in his first-ever Pro Bowl.

A spot on the AFC roster opened up when Denver's Rod Smith pulled out of the game.

Troy's biggest fan - and his connection to the Huntington District - is his wife, Kim Courts Brown. She's a Project Manager in the Huntington District's Regulatory Section.

Regulatory Chief Jim Richmond said, "Kim was jumping up and down when she heard the news."

We tried to get a comment from her, but at press time she was on her way to Boston to watch New England play Oakland - it's safe to say she enjoyed the team's victory.

It's a well-deserved honor for Brown. An All-American at Marshall University, the nine-year veteran set a single-season Patriot record with 101 catches and 1,199 yards receiving yards. He also excelled as one of the league's top punt returners.

When Brown got the news, he was given some good-natured ribbing from the offensive linemen.

Defensive end Willie McGinest shook Brown's hand and gave him a congratulatory hug.

In typical fashion, Brown shared the credit. "I wouldn't be going if it wasn't for the guys around me," Brown said. "I just go out and do my job. This is a team honor."

Fellow wide receiver David Patten said he has learned a lot from watching Brown this season.

"True professionalism," Patten said when asked to describe Brown. "He goes out every day and gets the job done. He understands what it takes to be in this league, and he really is a leader by example."

Brown joins safety Lawyer Milloy and quarterback Tom Brady as the players who will represent the Patriots at the Pro Bowl.

It's a great finish to a terrific season for Troy, as he joins the list of Marshall stars to shine in the NFL.

A Touching Experience

**By John Uppole
Ranger**

Telling our story, educating the public, providing a quality recreation experience, doing more, faster, cheaper: that's what it's all about, right?

The folks at Yatesville Lake have found one way to do that. It started with a stop along the highway at a rest area.

Manager John McGinn noticed an information kiosk and began pushing icons on the touch screen.

Today McGinn can go into his visitor center at Yatesville and push all the touch screen icons he wants. That's because he added a touch screen information system to the Yatesville Visitor Center.

Hiring a Kiosk contractor would

have cost as much as \$20,000. Instead, McGinn had Information Management purchase the equipment and the program.

The ranger staff to set up the system and maintenance personnel built the enclosure. The cost to the taxpayer: \$2,800, not including associated labor cost.

Today visitors can come to the Yatesville Lake Visitor Center and obtain information by simply touching icons on a screen.

The Kiosk supplies the visitor with updated information regarding facilities, lake areas, hunting, fishing, boating, history, culture, wildlife and water safety. It is an interactive system, providing written, audio, visual and printed media.

The technology will never replace the enjoyment provided by our beautiful visitor centers, but it does enhance the quality of our visitor's experience and is instrumental in "telling our story".

This only goes to show that good ideas come when we least expect it, even from alongside the road.



John McGinn and the information kiosk.

Nicaragua

Continued from Page 4

who work hard," according to Boster. "I enjoyed people and the culture. I didn't care for the roads." Language was also a problem, requiring the help of translators for those who didn't speak Spanish.

Another major problem, according to Webb, was the lack of engineering standards. "We had no base condition models of what had gone before. Everything had changed because of the hurricane, but we didn't know how much, because we had no historic data."

In terms of the Corps alone, it was a very successful project. Boster said, "We're now viewed as a potential partner for any engineering work needed by USAID. That organization didn't know much about us before, but now they see how we can help each other. They see we're a responsive task force."

Another positive result: the Nashville and Huntington Districts worked well together. "We had a very good team, with our efforts focused on getting the right person for the job and getting the job done. I've never been associated with a Corps project where two districts worked together so seamlessly. We were Team Nicaragua first, districts second."

The team also executed its funds well. The Huntington District's allocation was just under \$700,000. At the end of the project, the account was left with \$1.80.

After an 18-month period and a number of trips, each one lasting from one to three weeks, the project recently wrapped up. All three districts involved were recognized for their efforts. They were named the CELRD Project Delivery

Team of the Year 2001.

It was a project that will have a lasting impact on Central America.

"The people of Nicaragua got higher quality health care clinics and engineering know-how, including the basics of a dam inspection program," according to Boster. "They'll be able to preserve two dams, which provide 30% of Nicaragua's electricity. They've also been trained in the assembly and planning of bridges.

Even though the project involved lots of travel and hard work, Boster said, "I'm sorry it's over. I made some good friends and we did some good things. For me, it was a pleasant experience."



Photo by Pedro Luciano

A tractor helps reestablish the river channel at San Juan de Limay.



Photo by Dan Boster

Five girls pose at a bridge site near Pueblo Nuevo.

One Door to the Corps

**By Steve Wright
Public Affairs**

The experience in Nicaragua can be billed as the poster project for "One door to the Corps," with seamless organization, partnering and full fiscal execution approach.

Working through the Mobile District, USAID and Central American nations were able to secure technical expertise from the entire Corps of Engineers.

The Corps developed a positive impression with Dr. Margaret Harritt, USAID's Technical Officer for Nicaragua disaster recovery.

"USACE are the people to call right after a natural disaster involving water resources. USACE was a - if not the - top performer of all the US government agencies in the recovery work," Harritt said.

A key to the top performance was excelling in fiscal execution. The Nicaragua team completed its work on time and on budget. This resulted in developing the reputation that the Corps gets the job done and led to more work and three increases to the budget.

Gary House, the Nicaragua Project Manager from Nashville, said, "We started with a customer unfamiliar with our capabilities and ended with a customer that appreciated our efforts and wants to work with us again. We built a good reputation and made good friends," House said.

Huntington's Dan Boster said this was his most interesting assignment yet. "We were task and mission oriented. If they said build, we built, and if they said tear down, we did that too. I think they thought we were big and inflexible. We're not!"

Boster said at least for this project the concepts of one door, seamless organization, partnering and fiscal execution really paid off.

Huntington District People

New Arrival

- Congratulations to Elizabeth Slagel from Public Affairs and her husband Robert on the birth of Georgia Ashley on Dec. 27 at 6:05am.

Baby Georgia weighed in at 8 pounds.

They're all doing well.



- Congratulations also go out to Kim Davidson, Geologist of EC-GG, and her husband Matt on the birth of Jacob Matthews on Dec. 28 at 6:30pm. Jacob weighed in at 9 lbs. 1 oz. Mom, Dad and baby are all doing well.

Special Thanks

- To the employees of the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division. They donated non-perishable goods to the Huntington Area Food Bank.

The food was collected as the "admission price" to the PPPMD Christmas Part on Dec. 17, 2001.

That's what we call holiday spirit!

Retiree News

- Retirees are urged to keep May 24 marked on their calendars. Plans are proceeding for the 14th Annual Retirees Luncheon on that date.

More details will be available in the next edition of Castle Comments!

Corps Kids

- Gary Walker's son Matthew is a student at Pea Ridge Elementary School. He's one of 18 finalists in the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission's annual River Sweep poster Contest.

Matthew's entry was chosen from more than 2,000 entries in six states. If he wins, he'll receive a \$1,000 Savings Bond, and his poster will be used in advertising for the next river sweep.



Condolences

- To Brian Porter (EC-DE) and family on the death of his son Nathan on Dec. 22, 2001.

- To the family of Colleen Rhodes (LON) on the death of her grandson Hunter on Dec. 22, 2001.

- To the family of retiree David Holley on the death of his wife on Dec. 27, 2001.

- To the family of retiree Jack Patrick on the death of his mother on Dec. 30, 2001.

Correction

- In the December Castle Comments we said Paige Cruz was the only one in the Huntington district to ever win the Hiram Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. Of course, our memory banks were obviously faulty, because Dean Bonifacio, a Ranger at Bluestone, received the award in 1999. Sorry 'bout that, Dean!

Flying Old Glory

The Stars and Stripes are on display in an unusual spot at the London Locks & Dam.

M. Trent Waugh, a WY-8 Lock & Dam Operator, is a four-year Navy Veteran and a Veteran of the Vietnam War.

He uses a flag on London's Tow Haulage Cable Retrieval System as an indicator of the cable's position.

He also uses the flag as an indicator of where his heart and loyalties lie.



Department of the Army
Huntington Dist. Corps of Engrs
502 Eighth Street
Huntington WV, 25701-2070

Official Business

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