

RIP RAP

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District

USACE SPA, 4101 Jefferson Plaza N.E. , Albuquerque, NM 87109

Smoke from the Las Conchas fire that continues to blaze near Los Alamos, N.M., as seen from the Corps' Cochiti Dam recreation project.

Photo by Supervisory Ranger Mark Rosacker



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

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District Engineer,
Lt. Col. Jason Williams

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Firefighters Bed Down at Corps' Campground

By Kristen Skopec, Public Affairs

As of July 11, the Las Conchas fire continues to burn and has scarred nearly 150,000 acres of Santa Fe National Forest in Sandoval, Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties in northern New Mexico and has caused eight injuries.

The fire's destruction has claimed 63 homes and 44 outbuildings, while threatening hundreds of other structures and commercial properties.

People were requested, and sometimes forced, to evacuate from communities in the vicinity of the Corps' Cochiti Lake campground, and the recreation site was closed throughout the July 4 holiday weekend and is targeted to remain closed through July 19. All the while, the lake and campground have been sites of frenzied activity, as hundreds of wild land firefighters have been staged there, as well as several helicopters being used to draw water for the firefighting effort.

The Corps' primary role in the fire operation is to provide general support, secured operating space for helicopters and other equipment and sleeping space for tired fire teams.

Nearly 1,800 people, including 32 fire crews operating 68 engines, 33 water tenders and 11 bulldozers are involved in the firefighting effort.

With only 50 percent of the fire contained and continued gusty winds and dry conditions, the fire rages on. Unfortunately, left behind are weakened trees, a wide debris-field and hydrophobic soil that can wreak havoc during flooding. The burned ground has a crust of ash and crystallized soil that will not allow water to penetrate; thus, when the rains begin, debris, ash and burned soil will slough off into streams, tributaries and rivers. The clogging will result in flooding, and the situation is inevitable and, unfortunately, necessary for



Photo by Tim Beauchene

*Members of the U.S. Forest Service's "Rappel Crew" from Price Valley, Idaho conducted training and recertification measures for rappelling while lodged at Cochiti campground. The team has to rappel at least once a week to stay current on their certifications. **More information about the fire and firefighting effort, and photos, can be found on page 15 of Rip Rap.***

the ground to return to pre-fire condition and be able to absorb water once again. The timing of the fire is unlucky, as New Mexico's rainy season typically starts around this time.

John Martin Dam Employee From Joplin Assists with Corps' Tornado Response

By John Daves, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Joplin Recovery Field Office

What would you do if you found out your home town had just been heavily damaged by a tornado that cut a 1-mile wide by 6-mile long path through the heart of the city?

Everyone would react differently, including John Martin Dam employee Brian Simonds who, as soon as he found out about the tornado that struck the city of Joplin Mo., May 22, contacted his supervisor to ask if he could volunteer to help.

Once FEMA tasked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the Debris Removal and Disposal Mission, Simonds' supervisor put him in for the deployment. He left June 4 for 30 days as a Debris Quality Assurance inspector and has already asked for a 30-day extension.

"I feel compassionate about my job here because of my ties to the community," Simonds said.

The Corps of Engineers has been tasked by FEMA to provide public works and engineering-related support in response to natural disasters.

In Joplin, the Corps has specially trained response teams performing debris removal, critical public-facility restoration and temporary housing.

Simonds joined the Corps in



Photo by John Daves

Brian Simonds, a quality assurance inspector for the Corps, stands in front of a large debris pile in Joplin, Mo., June 13. The debris was the result of a tornado that struck May 22.

October 2009 as a maintenance worker at John Martin Dam and Reservoir in Hasty, Colo.

He said the hardest thing for him was seeing his late, great-Grandmother's house at 26th and Empire destroyed by the tornado. He said many of his childhood memories were of having family get-togethers at the home.

"It is devastating; I never thought it would happen to my hometown," he said. "Pictures just do not describe what has happened here. I will do anything I can to help my

hometown."

Simonds knows there is a big job ahead, but he and his fellow volunteers are committed to helping make the healing process for the community a quick one.

Also volunteering or have volunteered from the District to Joplin: Robert Derrane, Carroll Ragland, Seyfolla Estemadi, Jessie Griego, Debra Gallegos, Donald Gallegos and Koufra Girven.

Many others from the District are deployed to various other disaster operations.

Corps' Employee Receives Citizen Commendation

High Voltage Electrician Kelly Adams from the John Martin Reservoir Project was honored at an awards ceremony in Arvada, Colo., May 25, for his part in assisting a Colorado State Patrol trooper.

One weekend in February, while visiting family in Arvada, Kelly witnessed the trooper and another person involved in an altercation. He

quickly went to the aid of the trooper, who had been knocked to the ground, and Kelly helped subdue the suspect. The Arvada Police Department was called and took over the investigation.

For his part in aiding the trooper, the Arvada Police Department nominated Kelly for a



Photo and write-up by John Martin Operations Manager Karen Downey.

Kelly Adams displays the Citizen Commendation given to him by police May 25.

Citizen Commendation. The Commendation reads, "In recognition of your exemplary actions in assisting a Colorado State Patrol Trooper involved in a physical altercation with a suspect. Your efforts ensured the safety of the Trooper and all involved."

Celebrants Have Ball for Army's Birthday

An evening of dining and entertainment was enjoyed by the District's attendees at a gala June 18 in Albuquerque to celebrate the Army's 236th birthday.

The event was sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, New Mexico Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, 21st EOD-WMD Company, UNM Army ROTC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Lunas High School JROTC, Rose Marketing Group and Steve Paternoster (Scalo's).



USACE photo

Pictured (L to R): Stuart Christianson, Maj. Aaren Hanson, Lt. Col. (Ret) Larry Blair (Deputy Commander 76-78), Lt. Col. Jason Williams (Commander), Stacey Williams, Regina Colberg, Jorge Colberg (Deputy District Engineer), Maj. Richard Collins (Deputy Commander) and Honorary Commander Christine Glidden.

Medals Reflect Trio's Significant Contributions

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

One of the highest honors awarded in the Corps is the de Fleury Medal. There are three award levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Three District employees were awarded the Bronze de Fleury Medal June 9.

Chief of Design Branch Scott Hagen's award citation reads in part, "You have gone above and beyond as demonstrated by your dedication to accomplishing the District's mission, contributions to the QMS program and leadership of the Mid-Level Managers."

Barbara Bernal, who has 29 years of service and "has earned great distinction as a role model among her peers," is lauded for exhibiting the highest standards of accountability, integrity, insight and interpersonal communication in assuring successful financial execution of a complex spectrum of programs.

Pete Doles, supervisory program manager in the Programs Section, was honored for his outstanding leadership and support enabling superior performance and execution of the District's full spectrum of missions including: civil works program, operation and maintenance of critical infrastructure, and International and Interagency Services Support. He goes above and beyond every day to "make sure the District is 'built to



Photo by Rebecca Perez

The Bronze De Fleury Medal was awarded to Pete Doles, Barbara Bernal and Scott Hagen during a ceremony June 9.

last' and our employees are postured for the future."

The de Fleury Medal honors Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury, a French Engineer in the Continental Army. De Fleury's courage under fire at the battle at Stony Point, New York in 1779 won him the accolades of Congress.

During the battle to recapture the point, the Americans scrambled up the rocky slope with de Fleury in the lead. First over the wall, de Fleury was followed by a wave of American bayonets. Rushing to the flag pole, de Fleury cut the British colors from their staff.

For his intrepid behavior, the Continental Congress awarded a medal struck in his honor. It is understood that the de Fleury Medal was the first Congressional Medal struck, if not

the first medal authorized.

On the medal's front is "A Memorial and Reward for Courage and Boldness" in Latin. In the center appears the image of a helmeted soldier standing amidst the ruins of a fort, holding in his right hand an unsheathed sword, and in his left the staff of the enemy's flag, which he tramples underfoot.

On the reverse, again in Latin: "Fortifications, Marshes, Enemies Overcome." In the center the fortress at Stony Point is depicted with both turrets and a flag flying. At the base of the hill are two shore batteries, one of which is firing at one of six vessels on the Hudson River. Beneath the fort is the legend: "Stony Point Carried by Storm, July 15, 1779."

District's Military Members Stay Ready

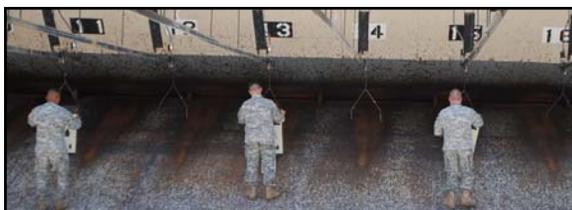
By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

In the early morning hours of June 10, Lt. Col. Jason Williams, Air Force Lt. Col. LeeAnn Summer, Maj. Richard Collins, Capt. Philip Bundy, Capt. Ryan Robinson, Master Sgt. Fernando Vasquez, Master Sgt. Bernie Lujan and Staff Sgt. Frank Edison underwent evaluations for their level of fitness and readiness by taking part in various elements of physical and weapons training.

The day began with Army Physical Fitness

Training at Mariposa Park in Albuquerque, N.M. This semi-annual training, conducted by Master Sgt. Bernie Lujan, began at 6:30 a.m. and consisted of pushups, sit-ups and a 2-mile run around Mariposa park.

Later in the day, the military members underwent yearly weapons familiarization training conducted at the Kirtland Air Force Base firing range. This training had the members fire the M-4 carbine and the 9 mm pistol. The M-4 carbine will eventually replace the M-16 rifle for all soldiers in the field.



Archeology Plays Important Role for Corps

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

Not confined to academic settings or Harrison Ford movies, archaeologists have an important role in deciphering history and preserving historic artifacts. The Albuquerque District has several archaeologists who also work to preserve the District's history, as our employees work and build in support of the nation's future.

The Corps' long tradition of historic and cultural awareness traces back to the Lewis and Clark expedition. In the 1800s, the Corps of Topographical Engineers (which was eventually merged into the Army's Corps of Engineers) came west exploring and surveying. The District began hiring archaeologists in the mid-1970s.

With close to 50 years of experience among them, archaeologists Jeremy Decker, Gregory Everhart and Jonathan Van Hoose work in the District's Environmental Resources Section.

Other archaeologists in the District include: Ron Kneebone, the District's Tribal Liaison; Ariane Pinson, the District's technical writer and editor; and Cochiti Park Ranger Tim Beauchene, who pursued his degree in archaeology to fulfill a childhood dream.

Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in 1966 to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the United States. The

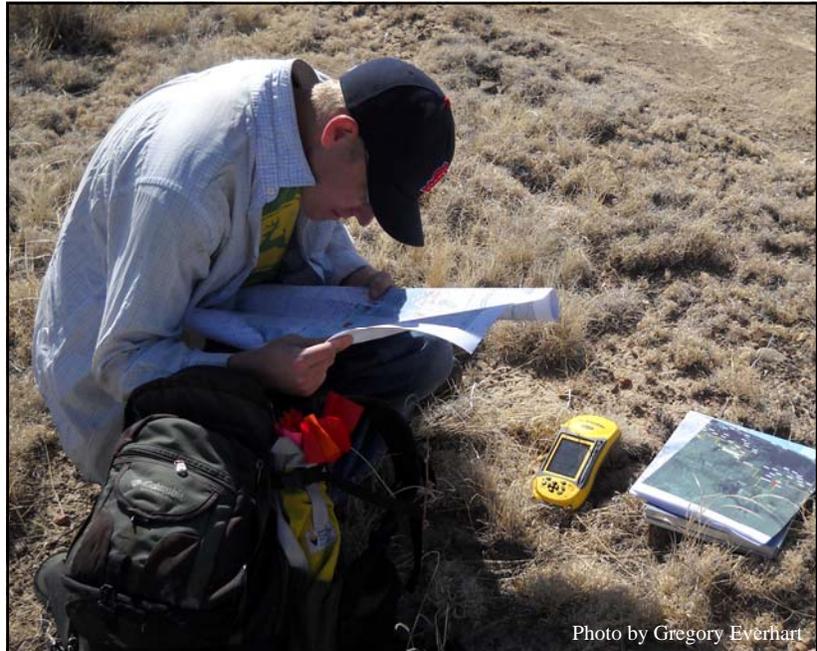


Photo by Gregory Everhart

After a wildfire in the area, Archeologist Jeremy Decker examines the fireline created along the northern perimeter of John Martin to see if any archeological sites were damaged.

act requires federal agencies to evaluate the impact of all federally funded or permitted projects on historic properties through a process known as a Section 106 Review.

If a site is listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the Corps, as a federal agency, is mandated to "take into account" the effect any proposed projects may have on the site. Interested parties must have the opportunity to comment. Potential interested parties can include the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), acequia associations, local governments, land owners and tribes. In the District, tribes and SHPO are always consulted.

Prior to NHPA, archaeological work was not mandated for federal projects. After the passage of NHPA, the Park Service was contracted to do archaeological work on the government's behalf. The initial surveys at Cochiti and Trinidad lakes were contracted through the Park Service.

While a common image of an archaeologist working involves being out in the field digging up artifacts, Decker, Everhart and Van Hoose try to avoid it when it's not necessary because it is resource intensive. A lot of the work is done by assessing and surveying historic sites and conducting literature reviews. However, Decker, Everhart and

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Van Hoose said they all agree that excavation work is fun.

Because NHPA also covers projects permitted by the Corps, archaeologist Chris Parrish works with the permit applications in the District's Regulatory Division. Parrish joined the Corps in April.

Most permit applicants have private consultants review databases to see if there are known historic properties that could be impacted by the application's actions. Part of Parrish's job is to review the consultant's findings. If a consultant hasn't done a review, then Parrish does it. Parrish is also a Regulatory Project Manager. Nationally, within the Corps, Parrish said that there are only around 10-12 Regulatory Archaeologists.

Decker, Everhart, Van Hoose and Parrish stay busy.

In April, John Martin Dam in southeastern Colorado experienced a wildfire, and dozens of archaeological sites burned. However, nothing was severely damaged, but, according to Decker, "a number of previously undiscovered sites within the freshly burned area" were located; including the foundation of a structure from the mid-to-late 1800s.

Decker said that this summer, he, Everhart and Van Hoose will be heading south to White Sands Missile Range to "conduct a cultural resource survey" to find any cultural resources that might be present.

Also, many acres of easement land remain to be surveyed and assessed at Conchas Dam.

Because this dam was built before a review of historic properties was required, only a small fraction of the area has been surveyed. The other dams and reservoirs in the District also offer sites to study.

Another ongoing project that Decker, Everhart and Van Hoose find fascinating is the District's Acequia Rehabilitation Program.

Unique to the District, acequias are more than just ditches to move water; they have a cultural aspect involving community interaction. Associations are formed to govern water usage and were early representations of community government in *Nueva Mexico* since the 1600s.

Did You Know...

Army lands contain some 90,000 archeological sites, including 64,000 known sites in maneuver areas. These sites range from those representing the rich and varied Native American past to early pioneer settlements to more contemporary sites related to the history of the Army itself.

The materials recovered from archeological inventories, evaluations and data recovery projects must be appropriately curated for the benefit of future scientists, educators and museum specialists. Therefore, an archeological project is not complete simply because the artifacts are out of the ground and a final report has been submitted.



During a visit to the District's John Martin Reservoir, archeologists examined a number of archaeological sites to assess the impact of a wildfire. They looked at historic structures, petroglyph panels and prehistoric artifact scatters all over the burn area.



This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 7 (Execute the regional Military Program and capitalize on Interagency and International Services opportunities).

District Happenings

Bombs AWAY! Program Remediates Tribal Lands

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

Historically used for Defense Department activities such as weapons testing, a remote site on Tribal lands has environmental impacts. How would this site compare with a highly populated urban site for environmental mitigation funding?

The Formerly Used Defense Sites Program (FUDS), administered by the Corps, deals with most environmental mitigation of past Defense Department activities. FUDS sites are ranked on a prioritized basis addressing sites with the highest risk first. FUDS uses ratings of relative risk to human health, human safety and the environment, along with other factors such as stakeholder concerns in prioritizing projects.

Some aspects of past Defense Department activities on Tribal lands, such as abandoned buildings, munitions and debris, typically rank low in risk or are not eligible for assistance under FUDS. Compounding the problem is the fact that many impacted Tribal lands are remote with low population density. This lowers their priority ranking, meaning it will take longer for these sites to get funding for any needed cleanup.

Because of this, since 1993, Congress has appropriated funding annually to address impacts to sites of significance to tribes. In 1996, the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) began, aimed specifically at addressing past Defense Department actions on Tribal lands.

According to Program Manager Carol Wies-Brewer, NALEMP works to level out population size in the risk assessment. Tribal lands are evaluated in comparison with other Tribal lands as to the risk level and which sites are prioritized, instead of being evaluated against non-Tribal land.

The Corps of Engineers administers the program for the Secretary of Defense's

Senior Tribal Liaison. Within the District, Wies-Brewer manages the local contractor who supports the program nationally, as well as managing the local cooperative agreements.

The first step in the NALEMP program: someone reports a potential environmental impact to the Native American Management System for Environmental Impacts database. The report initiates a review of the site's history to evaluate all information about the reported impact.

Based on the findings, the tribe could enter into a cooperative agreement with the Corps through NALEMP. One cooperative agreement can include several projects. Through the cooperative agreement, the Corps offers mentoring to tribal representatives in contract solicitation, selection and awarding and, if needed, environmental remediation technologies. As specific stages of projects are completed, the national database is updated. When all impacted lands are remediated to the tribe's satisfaction, the agreement ends.

Wies-Brewer describes the program size as consistent. The number of tribes varies only slightly each year, as funding remains steady. Congress funds the entire nationwide program at approximately \$10 million per year.

Under the cooperative agreement design, each tribe awards their own contracts for environmental remediation instead of the District's contracting office. After the tribe executes the work, the Corps receives invoices to reimburse the Tribe out of the cooperative agreement.

Corps-wide, NALEMP involves eight districts and approximately 30 Tribes. Last year's national meeting of all tribes and districts involved in the program was held at Isleta Pueblo, in the District.

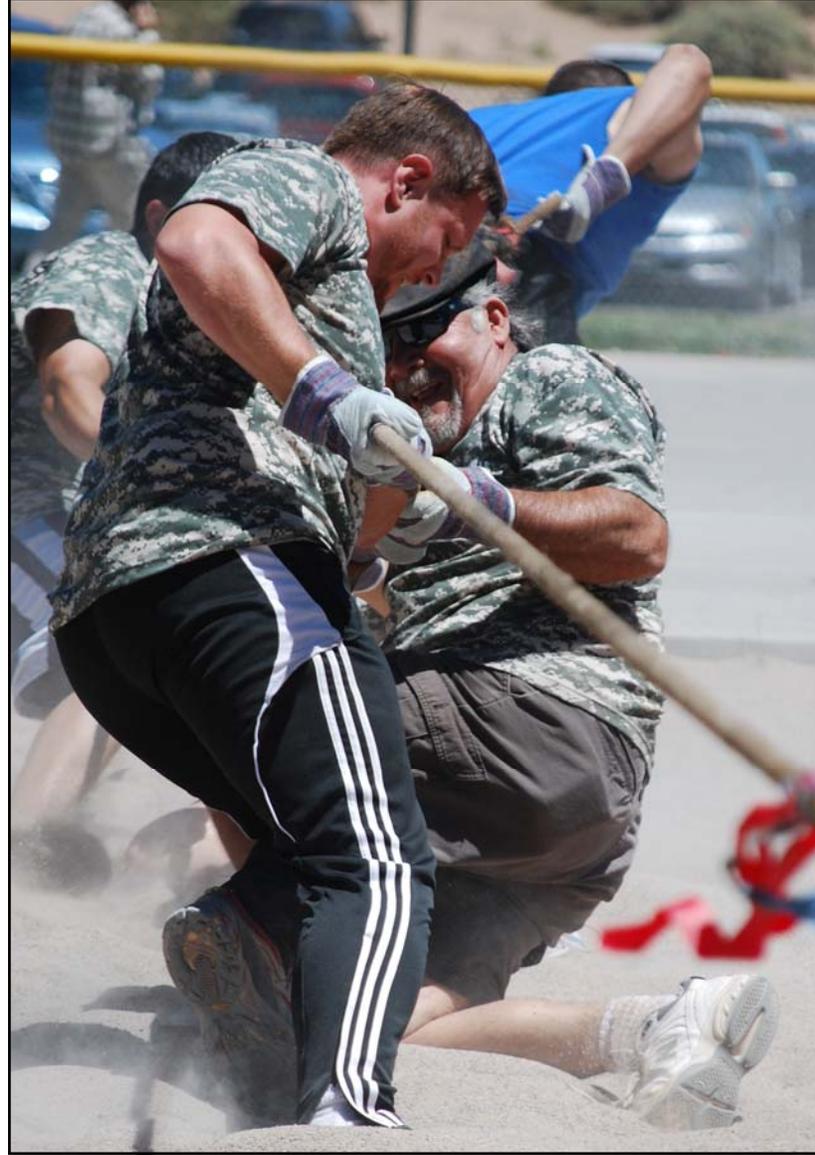
According to NALEMP's website, since the program began, 48 sites have been successfully mitigated, nearly 150 sites are partially mitigated and close to 50 sites have mitigation activities underway. Right now, the District has cooperative agreements with three pueblos. More information can be found here: <http://www.denix.osd.mil/na/Programs/DoDProgramsUnderSeniorTribalLiaison/NALEMP.cfm>

District's Organizational Day a Big Hit



Employees and family were invited to Mariposa Basin Park in Albuquerque June 9 to experience camaraderie, sportsmanship, food and fun. Members of the District's planning committee arranged for face painting, a climbing wall, a bike rodeo, a piñata, a cake of the Corps emblem, food catered by Fuddruggers, many sporting events and shade. These vibrant photos were taken by Ronnie Schelby and Lisa Lockyear.





Org Day at Holloman

The team at the Holloman AFB Resident Office also gathered to celebrate organization day June 9. (L to R) John Long, Carroll Ragland, Mark Yeast, Jeremy Branch, Sam Miller, Sean Moore (holding cake), Tom Flanigan, Amber Scyoc and George Fish. Staff not in photo were: George Hostler and Glenda Kohlieber. The teammates held a barbeque with family members and base civil engineer staff, and they also went bowling on base to avoid the heat.



Photo courtesy of John Long

District Resurrects Conchas Indians Baseball Team

By Summer Hire Park Ranger Kara Hickey

Construction of the Conchas Dam Project began in 1935 with the completion of a small city of gravel roads, apartments and houses to accommodate more than 2,500 relief workers and families.

To support the new population of Conchas City, a 24-bed hospital, power plant, water purification plant, telephone system, barber shop, beauty shop, shoe repair, dry cleaner, automobile garage, newsstand, confectionary store, restaurant, 250-seat theater and sport facilities were built.

Recreational opportunities for relief workers and families included baseball, softball, swimming, golf, tennis, volleyball, basketball, model airplanes and dances.

From the dust of a small community with little money to spend, came a baseball team called the Conchas Indians. The baseball team, made up of men of all ages, aided in elevating the morale from the desperate spirit of the Great Depression by alleviating anxiety that accompanied the intensive labor of working on such an extensive project.

Inspired by the 1938 team, the Conchas project has put together a 2011 Conchas Indians softball team to compete in the City of Tucumcari Co-ed Softball League. In conjunction with bringing the past alive, this team also aims to build teamwork among coworkers, family and friends.



2011 Conchas Indians are: (Back row, L to R) John Mueller, Tom Morris, Mark Jackson, Tyler Koch, Michael Martinez, Carl Latham, Ralph Arias and Steve Peterson. Front Row (L to R): Samantha Carter, Rhea Jackson, Jaclyn Dominguez, Kara Hickey, Jennifer Latham, Bunni Morris and Kristie Peterson. Not in Photo - Joe Martinez.

Ranger Training Packs a Punch!

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

On June 7 and 8, the District hosted its annual Visitor Assistance Refresher Training. This training is mandatory for operations managers, permanent park rangers and temporary lake employees who wear badges, so they are able to maintain their citation authority.

Twenty-one field employees attended the training.

Rangers have the authority to cite violators under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations.

Violations include actions such as driving off designated roadways, bringing alcohol into project areas and lakes, violation of quiet hours, possession of firearms, explosives or other weapons or fireworks, destruction of public or private property and other general violations of Corps' policies for using the facilities and project land.

The two-day training, co-facilitated by Supervisory Park Ranger Eric Garner and Outdoor Recreation Planner Craig Trinkle, included a number of important informational classes for the rangers.

Day one covered visitor assistance policy, ethics and conduct, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, blood borne pathogens, ranger image and communications.

The next day allowed the

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Park Ranger Gene McCracken and Supervisory Park Ranger Mark Rosacker practice self-defense moves.



Photos by Ronnie Schelby



Park Ranger John Mueller (left) and Park Ranger Phil Martinez practice the use of pepper spray.

Middle: (L to R) Operations Manager Dave Dutton, Park Ranger Austin Kuhlman, Park Ranger Pedro Valdez, Instructor Joseph Conway and Park Ranger Bob Mumford practice basic self-defense measures at Kenpo Karate studio. They were told that they should try talking first, as confrontations can sometimes be averted that way. Conway said, "If you treat people with respect, they'll usually treat you back respectfully."

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rangers to perform hands-on training, whereby all of the rangers participated in a personal protection and unarmed self defense karate class at Kenpo Karate, located north of the district office.

The rangers have attended classes at this karate studio for the last five years, according to Joseph Conway, instructor and owner of the studio. There, the rangers are taught basic self-defense measures.

“When encountering a situation with any potential for an altercation, our goal is to first try to diffuse it. We always want to begin by talking first,” Conway said. “We want to approach a situation in a non-threatening manner. This includes our posture and the tone of our voice. It’s about respect; if you treat people with respect, they’ll usually treat you back respectfully.”

Conway teaches that when first coming upon a potential situation, always approach with hands open and out front, because it is the most non-confrontational posture and may actually be comforting to the other person. He noted, however, that there may be some instances where situations will escalate. For those situations, Conway teaches different moves and techniques so the rangers can protect themselves.

If the situation does escalate, the rangers must assume the stranger knows as much about self defense as they do, and act accordingly. However, he did

emphasize, “what we teach here is don’t fight.” But, if it does get confrontational, Conway said to use the following procedure: hit, hit, hit, get away. Or, block, hit, get away and don’t stay around any longer than you need to.

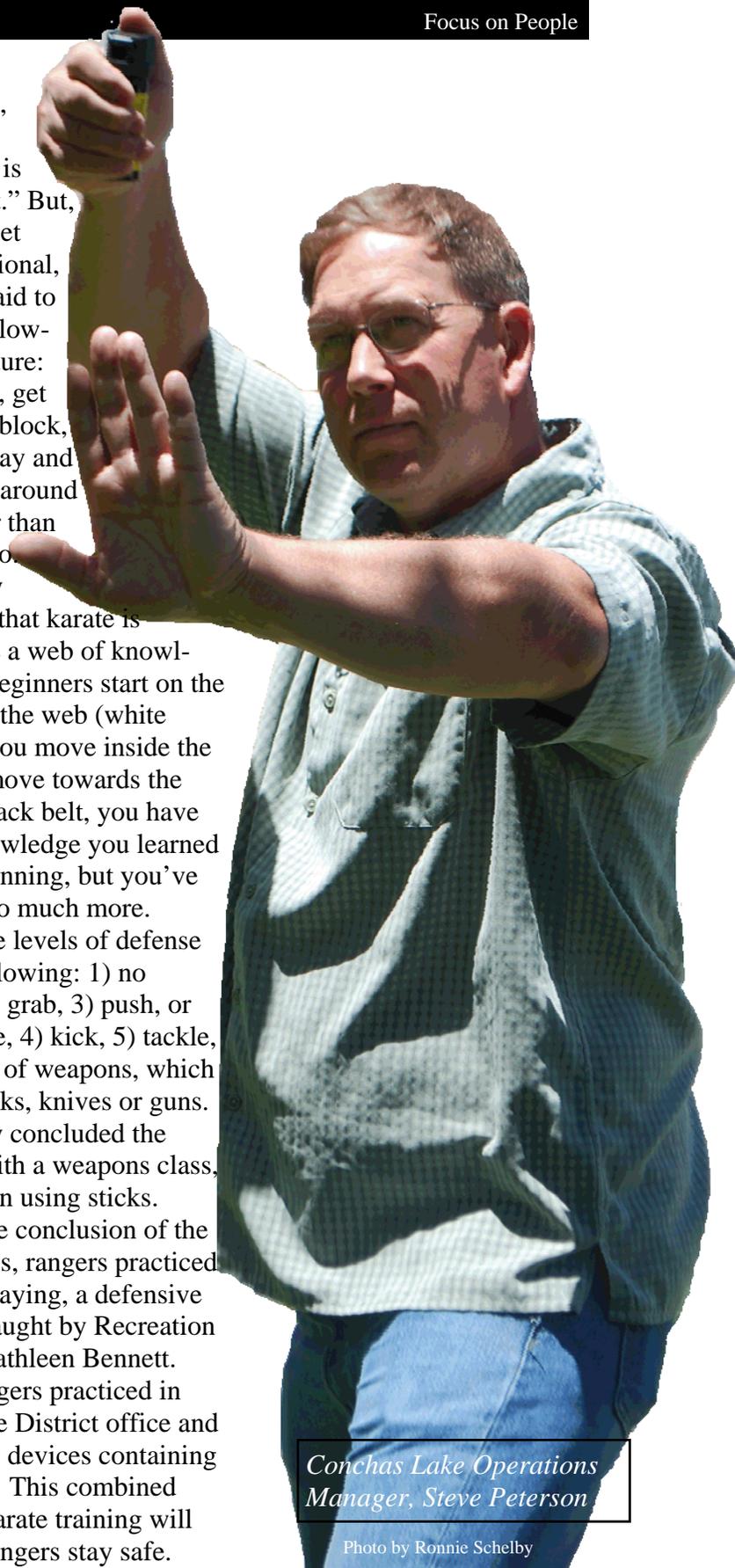
Conway explained that karate is taught like a web of knowledge: all beginners start on the outside of the web (white belt). As you move inside the web and move towards the level of black belt, you have all the knowledge you learned in the beginning, but you’ve acquired so much more.

The karate levels of defense are the following: 1) no contact, 2) grab, 3) push, or semi-strike, 4) kick, 5) tackle, and 6) use of weapons, which can be sticks, knives or guns.

Conway concluded the training with a weapons class, focusing on using sticks.

After the conclusion of the karate class, rangers practiced pepper spraying, a defensive measure taught by Recreation Planner Kathleen Bennett.

The rangers practiced in front of the District office and used spray devices containing lemon oil. This combined with the karate training will help the rangers stay safe.



*Conchas Lake Operations
Manager, Steve Peterson*

Photo by Ronnie Schelby

District's Leadership Program Enhances People

By Jeannette Alderete, Administrative Officer

The Albuquerque District continues to fine tune the Level I and II Leadership Development Programs (LDP) to help participants grow personally and professionally.

Facilitated by Craig Lykins, the District's training coordinator, classmates began the 2010-11 LDP II program by finding out about themselves. They experienced a self-assessment module designed to help recognize how they perceive themselves and how they are

perceived by others. They also looked at how their personal and work life mingle and their communication and management styles relate.

Subsequent modules of the LDP II program consisted of project management tools, generational differences, social networking and presentation skills, all designed to help build effective leadership qualities.

This year, the District Commander, Lt. Col. Jason Williams, talked with the group about his vision for the participants and the program; he highlighted various projects that needed special attention. Williams wanted to use the developing talents of the LDP II group to improve various mission areas, so the class participants were asked to select a project to work on. The projects included: Quality Management System (QMS) implementation, share-drive clean-up, Green Team jump start and developing a flood fight pocket guide.

The class participants divided into four work groups, and all groups were successful in meeting the project objectives and were able to present the findings to the Corporate Board on June 20. It was great to see the final product of each team's efforts.

The 2011 LDP II session helped me to stretch beyond my comfort zone. In addition to the regular day-to-day support I provide in



LDP II participants (listed by name below) celebrated their course completion June 29 at El Pinto restaurant.

the Executive Office, participation in the program meant I had to attend monthly training classes and find time to meet with my team to work on the QMS project.

On June 28, most of the program participants met at the University of New Mexico's "Ropes" course. This was the final exercise that challenged each of us to our physical, emotional and team limits by building trust, patience and respect. Everyone really bonded.

The LDP II experience was a great one. It raised my awareness of the many facets of effective leadership. I learned that inspiring people requires constantly adapting to your environment, constant learning and continuous awareness of generational differences. I think this quote by Mary D. Poole says it best, "Leadership should be more participative than directive, more enabling than performing."

All LDP II participants graduated on June 29. In alphabetical order, they are: Jeannette Alderete, Joe Ariaz, Katherine Chapman (BOR), Michelle Estrada-Lopez (BOR), Therman Franks, Susan Gant, Daniel Garcia, Jessie Griego, Timothy Kreitinger, Jennifer Lillard, Crystalin Medrano, Thomas Plummer, Felton Prosper, Maria Romero, Mark Rosacker, Monika Sanchez, Regina Schowalter, Kristen Skopeck, Mark Stewart, and Garry Vollbrecht.

District Offers Sandbagging Training and Techniques

The District continues to monitor the Las Conchas Fire, which is burning between the Corps' Cochiti Lake and Abiquiu Lake project offices. Cochiti Project recreation areas remain closed to support the active firefighting efforts, to include serving as an equipment staging area.

The District is posturing to provide support associated with anticipated flood control efforts within the impacted watershed areas. New Mexico's congressional delegation and all impacted tribes are seeking a presidential disaster declaration for the anticipated floods caused by summer monsoon rains that will mobilize large amounts of mud, ash and debris and could cause severe flooding.

The District has received formal requests for support from Congressman Ben Lujan (NM-03), Santa Clara Pueblo and Dixon Apple Orchard (a state-owned property).

Other impacted pueblos have submitted verbal requests and are preparing formal requests. The National Park Service has verbally requested support to protect structures at Bandelier National Monument. The Los Alamos National Lab is also assessing potential support needs.

District Emergency Management staff are providing flood fight training to impacted communities, with an emphasis on sandbag use.

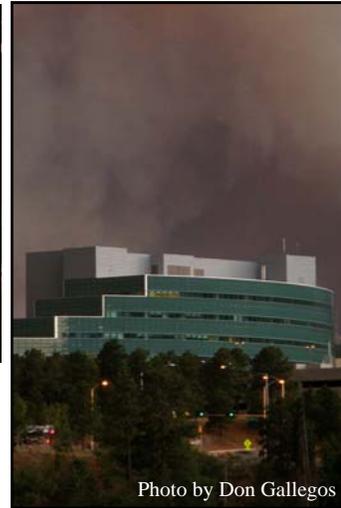
Since July 7, the Corps has conducted three sandbag training sessions where sandbagging techniques and using polyurethane sheets was discussed. These sheets are put over sandbags to give them a better seal. Sandbags help direct debris and water away from structures.

The District has also conducted a broad hydraulic assessment of the impacted watersheds to refine existing models and provide better runoff estimates. This information will serve as a basis to prioritize response efforts by the Corps or other federal, state, Tribal, or local agencies.

Las Conchas Fire



The fire's smoke enveloped most of the town of Los Alamos when it was started by a human on June 26.



Firefighters ready equipment, practice skills and bed down at Cochiti Project's campground.

Employee Resource Group to Meet Soon

The Employee Resource Group is in the very first stages of development. The group of 17 employees met for the first time June 22. It is a group for people interested in discussing and learning about resources for disability-related issues.

All employees and family members are welcome to attend the next meeting July 27, from 1130-1230 in the Main conference room in the District headquarters. If you would like more details about the group, contact Anita Serna, Resource Management Office, 4101 Jefferson Plaza

NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 343-6285

Corps Concerned with People's Safety

Nationwide, the Corps is continuing to concentrate on water safety outreach at lake and river projects, after a deadly start to the recreation season at Corps' parks.

As of May 31, 57 people have died on Corps-owned property this year, compared to 39 at this time last year—a more than 32 percent increase. Most of these fatalities were from drowning, and more than 90 percent of the people who died did not wear a life jacket.

“Public safety is our number

one priority,” said Maj. Gen. Merdith W.B. Temple, acting commanding general of the U.S. Army corps of Engineers.

“The increase in deaths at USACE parks this year is of great concern to us. We want to do everything we can to make people aware of potential risks when they visit one of our recreation areas, and how to make good decisions that will improve safety for themselves, families and friends.”

Corps officials encourage visitors to check local weather and water conditions and pay attention to recreation warnings, such as closures from emergency services offices, prior to entering the water.

District Has Renewed Focus on Quality Operations

By Gregory Allen, District Quality Manager

I can't believe it is already July. I started with the District at the end of November and, if I haven't already met you, I am Greg Allen, the District Quality Manager in the Resource Management Office.

Since November, I have met with most District leaders and attended staff meetings and newcomer's orientation to discuss the Quality Management System (QMS) and why it is important to the Corps. There are many benefits to implementing QMS and standardizing processes. Here are just a few: 1) Establishes structured approach to accomplishing work, 2) Supports executing work consistently, 3) Centralizes management and control of processes, 4) Promotes work sharing, lessons learned and captures institutional knowledge, 5) Improves reputation and customer satisfaction and 6) In-

creases efficiency. We have a lot of very knowledgeable personnel with years of experience, and we need to capture this into standardized processes before they leave the Corps. This can only benefit us as we develop today's and tomorrow's workforce capabilities, which are critical to maintaining our reputation among our customer base for delivering high quality and cost effective solutions. Efficiency is also paramount during these times of shrinking public budgets. Our efforts to standardize and continuously improve can only improve our customer relations. A standardized approach to accomplishing work is integral to continued success and relevance, whether in the public or private sector. The key to success for QMS is management engagement and support throughout the organization and allowing employees at all levels to get involved.



Greg Allen