R I P R A P

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District

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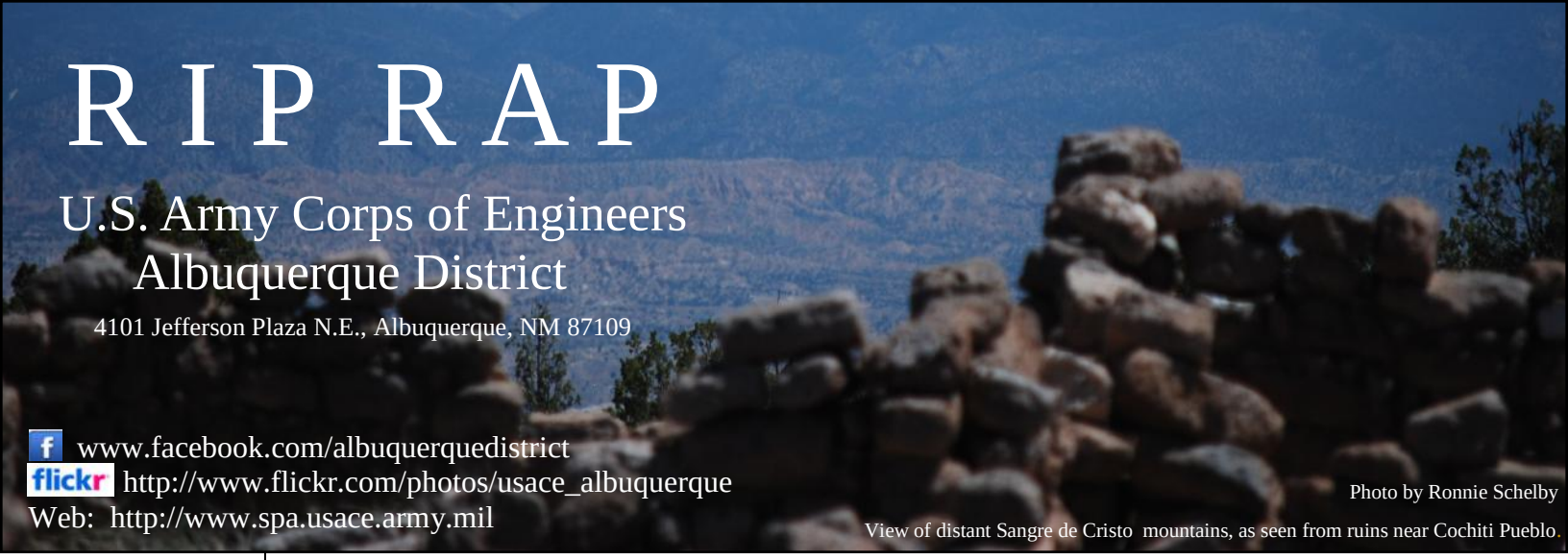

Photo by Ronnie Schelby
View of distant Sangre de Cristo mountains, as seen from ruins near Cochiti Pueblo.

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Albuquerque District

Volume 24, Issue 7
July 2012

In this issue…

District Engineer,
Lt. Col. Jason Williams

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Has New Commanding General

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick became the 53rd U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers May 22. He is the senior military officer overseeing most of the Nation's civil works infrastructure and military construction.

As the Corps' Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Bostick is responsible for more than 37,000 Civilian employees and 600 Military personnel who provide project management and construction support to 250 Army and Air Force installations in more than 100 countries around the world. The Corps also has a key role in providing support to Overseas Contingency Operations, with thousands of Civilians and Soldiers having deployed to support reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lt. Gen. Bostick also gains responsibility for the Corps' hundreds of environmental protection projects; regulatory permit program to protect, restore and enhance thousands of acres of wetlands; and emergency response mission to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency in restoration and repair after natural or other disasters.

As the Chief of Engineers, the Chief advises the Army on engineering matters and serves as the Army's topographer and proponent for real estate and other related engineering programs.

Prior to being assigned to the Corps, Lt. Gen. Bostick served as Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Personnel, United States Army, responsible for developing, managing, and executing manpower and personnel plans, programs, and policies for the Army. He also served in a variety of command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas. His command positions include: Commanding General, United States Army Recruiting Command; Director of Military Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with duty as Commander, Gulf Region Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq; Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver), later Assistant Division Commander (Support), 1st Cavalry Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom; Commander, Engineer Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Operation Joint Forge, Bosnia-Herzegovina; and Commander, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized). Furthermore, he served as Executive Officer to the Chief of Engineers, Executive Officer to the Army Chief of Staff, and Deputy Director of Operations for the National Military Command Center, J-3, the Joint Staff in the Pentagon from May 2001 to August 2002, including the events of September 11, 2001. Lt. Gen. Bostick was also an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at West Point and was a White House Fellow, serving as a special assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Lt. Gen. Bostick

Lt. Gen. Bostick graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He holds a master's degree in both Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University, and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia.

The RIP RAP supports our Operations Plan: Action 10 (Promote the Common Regional Picture and Strategic Communications).

Employees Celebrate Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

On May 24, Albuquerque District employees celebrated National Asian American/ Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a grand display of music, dance, color and food.

The celebration, organized by Supervisory Park Ranger Mark Rosacker, who is the Special Emphasis Program Manager for Asian American/ Pacific Islander Heritage, included an informative talk by keynote speaker Sue "Hwa soon" Thorson entitled Diversity in Leadership.

Thorson, an expert in mediation and a long-time federal employee, presented tips and insights to help people work well together in a diverse work force.

The festivities then caught on fire as the attendees were treated to an authentic dance performance by the Halau Hula Ha`aheo O Hawai`i Dance Company, lead by founder and native Hawaiian, Cindi Heffner.

The dancers entranced the audience with their elegant renditions of hula dances. The performance also included an explanation of the graceful hand movements, as well as gourds, wooden sticks and colorful head dresses, adding to the magic of the day. Some employees even volunteered to join the dancing, and they learned and performed the hula version of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Everyone participating was treated to a food sampling of roasted pig (courtesy of Rosacker), rice and other native dishes contributed by employees.

It was a true celebration of Asian American/Pacific Islander heritage and provided for an understanding of this culture's customs.

Photos by Ronnie Schelby

Identity Thieves Need Personally Identifiable Information

By Katiana Torres, Public Affairs

The New Mexico Office of the Attorney General sent representative Rebecca C. Branch to talk to Corps' employees May 29 on identify theft, credit card fraud and various scams circulating throughout our area of operations. Most importantly, she highlighted possible ways to avoid becoming a victim of a crime.

According to Branch, identity theft has quickly become the fastest growing white-collar crime in the United States. She said New Mexico's Attorney General, Gary King, often reminds people that although technological advances allow people to bank and shop online and by telephone, these conveniences can lead to identity theft. The identity thieves seek to gain personally identifiable information, or PII, which includes birth dates, social security numbers, telephone numbers, addresses, credit card numbers and bank information. The Office of the Attorney General recommends that PII only be given out when you are certain of the identity of the person whom you are giving the information. If someone you do not know is asking for your PII via telephone, mail, or e-mail, it may be a "phishing" scam to obtain your information.

Another way to prevent identity theft is by ordering an annual credit report. Branch said people are entitled to one free credit report from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus each year and should take advantage of it.

"By examining your credit report annually, you may see if there is any suspicious information regarding your credit accounts, legal history, and bills," she said. "If the information

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Crisis Management Planning Helps Ensure District is Prepared

The District's Crisis Management Team (CMT) members participated in a continuity of operations exercise at an emergency relocation site May 23.

During the exercise, CMT members were tasked with reviewing Crisis Management Concept of Operations role-specific checklists and Mission Essential Task Lists, which detail how they will operate during an emergency that necessitates a physical relocation of Corps' operations.


Photo by Kristen Skopeck

"Conducting exercises of this type allows CMT members to identify deficiencies and to take the necessary measures to mitigate those deficiencies, so they can rapidly respond to and recover from an incident," said Theresa Rogers, Readiness and Contingency Operations Specialist.

These activities support our Operations Plan: Goal 4 (Build and cultivate a competent, disciplined and resilient team equipped to deliver high-quality solutions).

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on your credit report does not seem right, it is possible that identity theft has occurred."

Branch said it is important to keep information used online secure in order to prevent credit card fraud. This starts with making sure an internet connection is safe. A person can validate the safety of his or her connection by verifying that there is a padlock icon located near the bottom of the webpage and that the web address starts with "https."

Branch also recommends that virus protection software is installed and kept current.

She said one of the scams currently affecting New Mexicans is the "Grandparents" scam, in which two people make a call to an elderly person. One person gets on the phone claiming that they are the elderly person's grandchild and that they have been arrested in another country. At this point, the second person gets on the phone and claims to be a lawyer. The scammers then ask for so-called "bail" money. According to Branch, scams go in trends running from about six to eight months.

The New Mexico Office of the Attorney General provides resources on scam protection methods through pamphlets. There are also web resources, such as the Federal Trade Commission's site (ftc.gove/idtheft) and Social Security Administration's at (ssa.gov).

Dietitian Discusses Diabetes

By Katiana Torres, Public Affairs

Certified diabetes educator and registered dietician Jennifer Bryant stopped by the District June 6 to discuss healthy eating and meal planning to benefit diabetics and non-diabetics. In fact, she advises a diabetic meal plan for everyone.

She emphasized that the foundations for preventing and controlling diabetes on the run are threefold: eat a controlled amount of carbohydrates, have protein each time you eat and eat every three to four hours. If adopted into a daily regimen, these three goals should produce benefits such as stabilized blood sugars, controlled appetite, maximized energy levels and improved memory function.

To meet the first goal, men should eat 45-60 grams of carbs per meal, while women should eat 30-45 grams, and everyone should consume 0-15 grams per snack. Also, Bryant said, carbohydrates and protein are the most key components of controlling diabetes, and the more consistent carbohydrate intake is, the more consistent blood sugar is. Several foods which are high in carbohydrates are milk/yogurt, potatoes (starchy vegetables), grains and sweets. Foods which are low in carbohydrates include vegetables (non-starchy) and nuts. Foods which have zero carbohydrates are meats, fish, cheese, and oils (butter, mayonnaise and extra virgin olive oil).

Bryant is a believer in what she calls the 80/20 rule. The 80/20 rule says that 80 percent healthy eating and 20 percent unhealthy (cheat days, eating out, i.e.) make a healthy diet.

For goal number two, eat protein every time you eat, it does not mean you have to (or should) eat meat with each meal. Meat may be supplemented with other protein sources such as tofu, protein powder, beans and nuts. In compliance with this goal, Bryant suggests desserts be paired with nuts, like a bowl of ice cream with ten to fifteen raw unsalted almonds for protein. Snacks should be 100-200 calories and 5-15 grams of protein. Bryant encourages her clients to choose a carbohydrate and a protein to eat together as a snack. Her suggestions include half a cup of applesauce paired with one and a half ounces of beef jerky for a 150 calorie snack, or a fourth of a cup of cottage cheese with a half cup canned fruit.

For goal three, eat every three to four hours by planning meals. Bryant recommends these resources for healthy eating: www.QuickandHealthy.net, www.myrecipes.com, www.health.gov/dietayrguidelines/dga2005/healthieryou/html/recipes.html, and BusyCooks.about.com

Tiny Beetle Being Used to Control Pesky Plant

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

Photo by Ronnie Schelby

One of the District's biologists, Danielle Galloway, uses a sweep net for capturing Tamarisk Leaf Beetles, a bio-controlling species that is used to help control the spread of Tamarisk.

On May 30, employees from the District's environmental section participated in the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle Monitoring Workshop at a field training location in Bernalillo, N.M. The hands-on workshop, attended by approximately 30 people from the Corps and other governmental and state agencies, was conducted by the Tamarisk Coalition, a non-profit alliance out of Colorado whose mission is to restore riparian lands.

The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize the attendees with the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle, a bio-controlling species that was introduced in 1999 in order to help with the control of the tamarisk plants. The beetle was extensively tested to ensure that it would not present any dangers to other plant species.

Tamarisk, commonly known as salt cedar, is a non-native, invasive plant species. It was first introduced in the United States from central Asia and the Mediterranean around the turn of the century for the purpose of erosion control.

One of the many Tamarisk Leaf Beetles caught during the workshop.

However, tamarisk began to quickly overrun the native, local species and now needs to be controlled.

Unfortunately, controlling the tamarisk has another ramification because, within the last few years, the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher has adapted the tamarisk as one of its habitats. Therefore, before introducing the beetle or any other type of controlling measure, surveys must be completed to ensure the flycatcher has not inhabited the area.

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

Participants break new ground for the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicle Directorate's Space Sensors Laboratory. Pictured left to right are: Mike Granjean, vice president, GranCor Enterprises, Inc.; Maria Cornay, president, GranCor Enterprises, Inc.; Col. Bill Cooley, materiel wing director, Space Vehicles Directorate; Dr. Mayer Landau, scientist, Space Vehicles Directorate; Michael Gallegos, chief, Infrastructure Management Branch, Space Vehicles Directorate; Col. Edward Masterson, division chief, Spacecraft Technology Division, Operations and Integration Division Space Vehicles Directorate; Filemon Gallegos, project manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District; Sue Atwood, deputy director, Space Vehicles Directorate; and Dr. Christian Morath, scientist, Space Vehicles Directorate.

AFRL's Space Vehicles Directorate to Get Three Labs

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

District employees participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Air Force Research Laboratory's (AFRL) new Space Sensors and Infrared Radiation Effects Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base June 7. The $1.65 million contract for the facility, which will be approximately 6,000 sq. feet, was awarded Sept. 30, 2011 to the GranCor Enterprises, Inc., a local, minority, woman-owned company specializing in environmental remediation and construction. The lab is scheduled to be completed in December.

The new laboratory is replacing an older facility which was originally built as a dining hall in 1958. Because of its age, the older building developed cracks, leaky windows and insufficient heating, cooling and ventilation.

Enduring these deficiencies has impacted the scientists' ability to conduct research.

The new building is the first of three new laboratories the Corps is helping to construct for AFRL. The Corps is working to award the $1.95 million contract for the second building, the Infrared Radiation Effects Laboratory, in September and expects construction to begin in 2013. The building will be located adjacent to the Space Sensors and Infrared Radiation Effects lab.

A third building will be located next to the first two; however, this final laboratory is still in the early planning stages.

This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 1 (Prepare and deploy civil response teams in support of domestic incidents and all-hazard contingencies).

Corps Provides Sandbag Training for Communities

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offered hands-on sandbag training and emergency flood preparedness at the City Park in Glenwood, N.M., June 9 and 16. The training was open to residents of Catron County communities, as that area has the potential to experience flooding during the upcoming monsoon season in the aftermath of prolonged burning by fires.

More than 90 community members and local emergency responders participated with Corps' employees in a demonstration showing proper sandbag filling, placement and other emergency management procedures.

In particular, Justin Riggs of the District's Regulatory Division talked about emergency permits and Hydrologist Steve Boberg spoke about potential debris flows following a fire. The Readiness Contingency Operations Section was represented by Cheryl Buckel and Don Gallegos, who demonstrated sandbagging techniques and reminded people that "knowing what to do and having a plan in place when severe weather strikes will help protect you and your loved ones." A Corps' team will return to look at vulnerable locations and help identify emergency preparedness measures.

The Corps assists the Departments of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and our employees stay prepared for when severe weather strikes.

Photos Courtesy of Cheryl Buckel

Corps Checks Progress of Ecosystem Restoration

By Katiana Torres, Public Affairs

The Corps has been actively involved in restoring the ecosystem of the Middle Rio Grande since 2007, when the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District initiated projects incorporating ecosystem revitalization along Route 66.

Since then, the Corps, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, Bureau of Reclamation and Sandia Pueblo have collaborated on the restoration.

Corps employees were able to observe restoration progress at several of the sites June 15. They observed growth of native species plants amongst swales, which are small manmade depressions that encourage dense vegetation growth from a closer proximity to groundwater. Native plants such as Coyote Willows and Sunflowers were planted in the swales to add diversity to the floodplain and help prevent infringement by Russian Olive Tree and Siberian Elm.

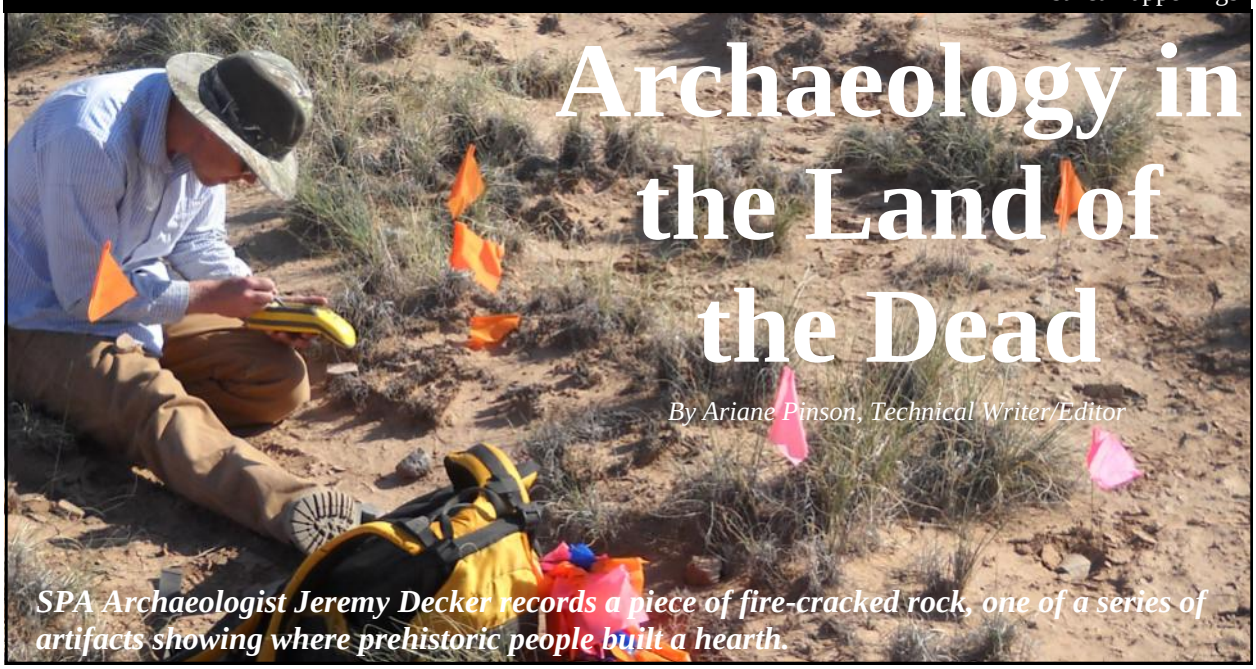
"It was very encouraging to see the potential for improved health of wildlife and vegetation along the terraces and swales of our Bosque," said Project Manager Alicia Austin Johnson.

In total, the Middle Rio Grande Restoration project will restore 916 acres of native Bosque (riparian cottonwood forest) along a 26-mile stretch between Isleta Pueblo and the northern border of Sandia Pueblo. Besides the primary sponsors, the project has many collaborators, like state and city governments and neighbors.

The $25 million project partially fulfills the Corps' requirements in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2003 Biological Opinion to create and restore habitat within this reach of the river for the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. In addition, restoration benefits neo-tropical songbirds and other species that migrate along the corridor.

Sunflowers are native to New Mexico and are springing up in swales all over the Rio Grande's Bosque.

In the Bosque, large Cottonwood trees shade baby Cottonwood and Coyote Willows, supported by posts and wire cages.



Archaeology in the Land of the Dead

By Ariane Pinson, Technical Writer/Editor

SPA Archaeologist Jeremy Decker records a piece of fire-cracked rock, one of a series of artifacts showing where prehistoric people built a hearth.

Jornada del Muerto – Journey of the Dead - for more than two centuries, Spanish colonists traveling between Mexico City and the Spanish colonial outpost at Santa Fe had to cross this desolate, waterless valley in south-central New Mexico. The Jornada's flat surface hides hidden sand dunes whose roots lie along the surface of an ancient dune field. Cement-like surfaces could give way to 4 feet of sand in the space of a single step, bogging down oxen and cartwheel alike, requiring time and energy to free both. Carrying all the water for both humans and livestock, travelers were keenly aware that any delay during the 90-mile crossing could cost both lives and profits.

From the northern end, the Jornada is deceptive: driving south from New Mexico State Highway 380, the treeless land slopes gently southward towards a low spot that ought to hold water, but doesn't. There is only an alkali flat, a ghost of waters past to remind the visitor of how it used to be.

And it used to be good here. Fifteen to twenty thousand years ago, when humans first entered North America, a broad, shallow lake filled the lowest part of the valley— a crescent of blue encircled by verdant marshes. Permanent streams delivered never-ending freshwater from the surrounding mountains; mammoth, yesterday's camel, ground sloth, horse and other now-extinct animals wallowed in the mud and rested in the shade of trees that covered the valley floor.

But the climate warmed strongly after 13,000 years ago, and the jet stream shifted northward, taking with it much of the rainfall that had kept the land green and the lakes full. Annual temperatures rose some 6-8°F. Trees that could no longer tolerate the valley bottom relinquished it to rabbitbrush, greasewood, bunchgrass, and yucca. The blue water evaporated away, leaving behind a pan of gypsum salts. When the wind blew, gypsum dust was carried aloft; when it stopped, the gypsum fell from the sky like rain, coating the landscape, mixing with local sand until the whole land was a pale tan. Only hares, lizards, toads, insects and small birds were able to thrive in this austere setting.

I have come to the northern end of this forbidding landscape in order to assist District Archaeologists Jeremy Decker, Jonathan Van Hoose and Greg Everhart to conduct an archaeological survey of a small area just inside the White Sands Missile Range. It's April, and the temperatures have already hit 91°F, more than 10°F above normal for this time of year. The sun beats down mercilessly

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and the horizon shimmers with heat. Dust devils writhe across the flats. An overwhelming silence fills the air.

For the first two days, we walk back and forth across the survey area, each person 15 meters from the next, looking for artifacts from bygone times. Much of the landscape in our survey area has been churned up by modern military activities, but small patches of undisturbed earth remain. In these patches, we find small traces of the past: tiny arrowheads the size of my thumbnail and debris from stone tool manufacture in an astounding array of different colored cherts and quartzites. Sometimes we find a scatter of cobbles, burnt and fractured in a way that only a fire can do, and we know that here – at this spot precisely – people prepared and ate a meal a few thousand years ago. We find fragments of the stones on which they ground mesquite beans and other edibles into flour; a discarded scraping tool precisely fits my hand, calling to mind the gesture by which the tool was used.

Day three is hot and still. We start the detailed process of recording one of the two large sites we discovered during our survey. While the others determine the site boundary and record and map artifacts, my job is to dig a small trench to look at the site's geology. The land's nearly flat surface is deceptive: underneath, there is a hidden landscape of ancient sand dunes made concrete-hard by the process of soil formation. These "fossilized" dunes predate human arrival by tens of thousands of years. More recent sand, however, fills the low spots between these ancient dunes, and here is where I find sediment equivalent in age to the artifacts we are finding at the site. This shows that, at this site at least, there are places where the artifacts may still be in the places their makers left them. Satisfied, I refill my trench.

Late in the day, Decker's shout gathers us to the north end of the site, where a fragment of a 10,000-year-old spear point lies on the surface. It is made of a distinctive brown chert that only comes from the Texas Panhandle, attesting to the long-distance travels of the earliest hunter-gatherers in the Southwest.

Day four is hot and far from still. The wind rises over the course of the day, steady at 30 mph, gusting to 70, blowing fine sand and gypsum dust across the landscape, obscuring the horizon. We are at a different site, where hundreds of artifacts lie on the surface: flakes of stone, fragments of metates and manos, pieces of fire-cracked rock, and the occasional tool. So many, that it takes Decker, Van Hoose and Everhart a whole day to describe and photograph a sample of what is visible.

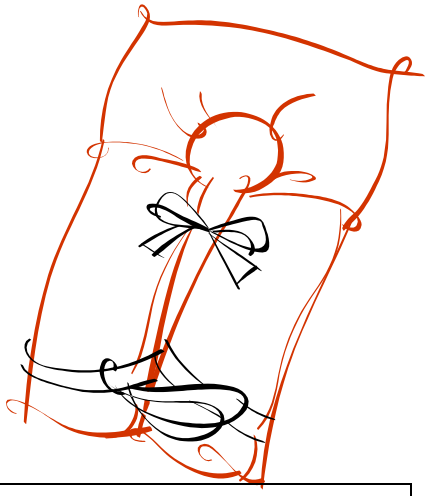
Despite the swirl of sand in my face, I dig another trench. The trench cuts into the side of a sand dune, near where erosion of the dune has exposed artifacts at the surface. Luck is with me: at about the depth I expect to find artifacts, I encounter a piece of a ground stone metate and debris from tool manufacture, establishing that at this site as well at least some of the artifacts are in their original context.

Day five is cooler and without a breath of wind. We spend the morning looking for a site originally recorded more than 20 years ago, but time and landscape change have obliterated all evidence of its existence. As we pack up our gear for the trip home, we are struck by how many ground stone artifacts we have seen during the survey.

To our eyes, this landscape is devoid of edible food; left to our own devices, we would quickly starve. But past peoples understood that edible roots and seeds could be found in particular seasons even this far out on the valley floor. Year after year they returned, prepared for a bountiful harvest, carrying 10 pound metates dozens of miles from stone quarries in distant mountains. At this spot where they gathered and feasted, the echo of their passing remains in the artifacts they left behind and the arrangement of these items on the landscape. In the silent stillness under the midday sun, it is the only sound I hear.

Employee Experiences Near Miss Memorial Day

A Seattle District employee recounts a very near miss he and his family experienced over Memorial Day weekend. He asked that the story be shared, as this kind of incident could happen to anyone.



I took the family on a camping trip over the Memorial day weekend and had a very, very close call. It's a great example of cold water safety and the need for personal flotation device (PFD) usage.

THIS WAS THE MOST SCARED I HAVE EVER BEEN— I almost lost a kid to drowning. The boys (athletic 16-year-old football players) went for a swim in frigid snow melt water; they tried to swim across a relatively small lake.

The cold water nearly incapacitated one of the boys instantly; they were in deep water and in deeper trouble. They were a ways from shore... and I am a strong swimmer with navy medic, lifeguard and open water survival training. So, I jump in to "save" him.

I started swimming strong but within feet my strength was gone, and I was struggling to breath, stroke, or make it to him. It was like I was swimming in tar. I was being overwhelmed by the frigid water before I even felt that it was cold! I honestly believed that we weren't all going to make it back to shore (drowned in the lake), including myself! I have lost loved ones before, and this was far scarier.

Here's a quote later read regarding frigid waters, "We now appreciate that sudden immersion in cold water (less than 60ºF) initiates a series of incapacitating reflexes that increase the risk of drowning. Indeed, the most common cause of death from cold-water immersion is drowning, not hypothermia. Blood pressure, heart rate and the workload of the heart all increase, making the heart more susceptible to life-threatening rhythms and heart attack. Simultaneously, gasping begins, followed by rapid and deep breathing. These reflexes can quickly lead to accidental inhalation of water and drowning. This rapid and seemingly uncontrollable overbreathing creates a sensation of suffocation and contributes to feelings of panic. It can also create dizziness, confusion, disorientation, and a decreased level of consciousness."

Water safety resources: http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/safetytips.htm AND http://www.watersafetycongress.org/eduprograms.shtml

We barely got the boy to shore, and he had blacked out; we treated him for hypothermia and exhaustion. He was okay within hours. Although, I will never look at water the same way again. I had lost my respect for how deadly it is and was painfully reminded.

The boys tried to swim across a lake that would have been a stretch in ideal conditions. They both should have been wearing life jackets. The sad thing is, I left the bag with all the life jackets at home because we didn't have "enough room." I should have known the waters were frigid and dangerous. I shouldn't have let them attempt such a long swim without life jackets. I should have, I should have, I should have. Please, if you are a parent, bring life jackets for you and your kids and use them! Know the waters, and never forget that things can go from laughing and having fun to orphaning your kids or burying them in seconds!

Photos by Ronnie Schelby


Mariposa Basin Park
June 14, 2012 9AM-3PM

District's Deputy Wows Kindergarten Class

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

It was just like a movie – A soldier walks into a room filled with children, and someone shouts out, "there's an Army guy!" And, that kicked off a high-energy engagement at Sunset View Elementary in Albuquerque.

On May 19, Lt. Col. Richard Collins, Albuquerque District Deputy Commander, was invited to the school for a presentation to his son William's kindergarten class.

He was invited by the teacher, Mr. Branch, a former Army soldier, to give the children some insight about what it means to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Even though this was a tough audience, the Lt. Col. was ready. He was armed with various helmets, vests and photos to help explain what it means to be a soldier and engineer in today's Army.

Photo by Ronnie Schelby

First, he put on the helmet and vest he wore while assigned to a mission overseas. Next, he changed into a safety jacket and hard hat, and he explained how these were used on site visits to projects everywhere and how important is to use the right gear to be safe. Finally, both he and a child from the class donned water safety vests, and he explained how the vests keep you safe in the water. The wide-eyed children listened well and asked questions throughout.

Lt. Col. Collins received a round of applause from the class, and a hug from his son.

Chief's Beliefs

The Corps' new Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, met with employees recently and discussed his key philosophies:

-It's always a team effort and we need a diverse team to win.

-We must train, teach, coach and mentor our workforce every day. Education and professional development is essential to building a stronger Corps and Army.

- Change is always inevitable. We must lead and shape it.

- Communicate not just so that people understand, but so that there is no possible way to misunderstand. Shared information is power.

- Tell the Corps and the Army story. All of us play a role in strategic engagement.

- It's never about what's in it for us. It's always about what we can do for the Army and the Nation…that is the true meaning of Selfless Service.

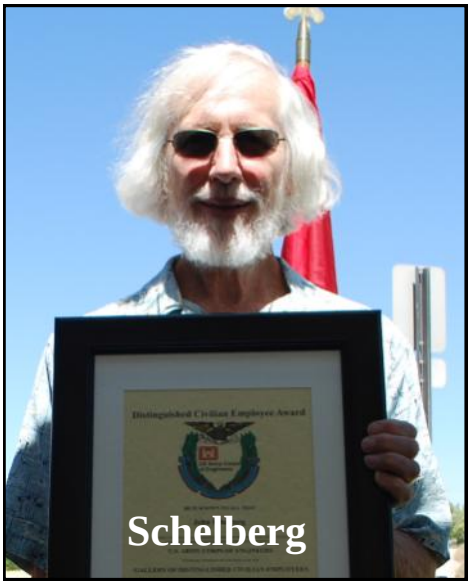
- Stay fit and healthy; and take care of family.

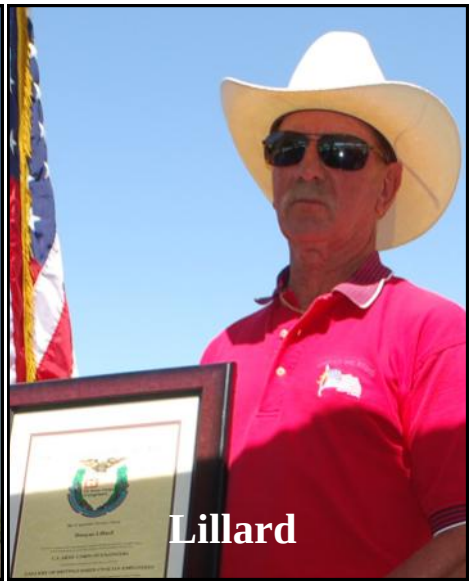
Employees Graduate from Leadership Program

The District's Leadership Development Program II held a graduation June 18 to honor its 2012 participants. In the photo, left to right, are: Donna Robbins (UNM Special Projects), Hildreth "Coop" Cooper, Craig Lykins (LDP Coordinator), Danielle Galloway, Karen Sill, Amy Louise, Robert Grimes, Grace Procter, Denice Quinn, Paul Cravens, Amanda Tapia-Pittman, Chris Parrish, Rick Buttz, Lt. Col. Rick Collins and John D'Antonio.

Two Retirees Inducted into Districts' Gallery of Distinguished Civilians

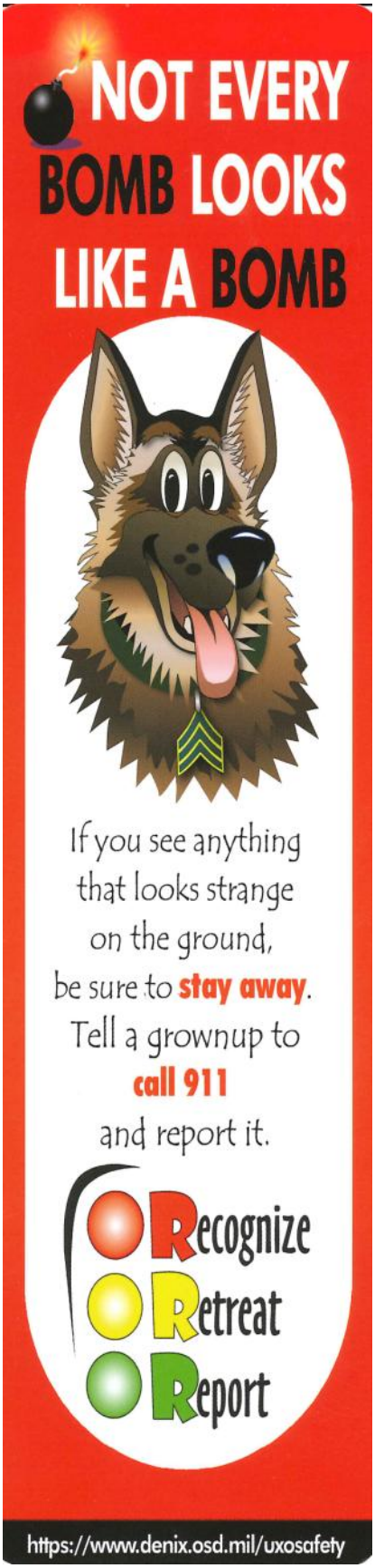
The Albuquerque District inducted two employees into its prestigious Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees during the annual Organizational Day July 14. Mr. Dwayne Lillard and Dr. John Schelberg were given plaques as part of the honor and had photos taken to be added to those in the entryway of the District Office. The gallery was established in the 1970s as a means of recognizing outstanding retired civilian employees, and Schelberg and Lillard are the 31st and 32nd employees to be inducted.





Dr. John Schelberg
Dr. Schelberg retired in 2011 after serving as the Archeologist in the Planning Branch, Environmental Resources Section, Albuquerque District, for 28 years. He played a significant role in the management, planning and subsequent protection of cultural resources for hundreds of Civil Works and Military projects in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

Dwayne Lillard held several positions while at the district, including South Pacific Division Dam Safety Program Manager and Regional Geotechnical Engineer. He was a member of the USACE-HQ Dam Safety Communities of Practice Steering Committee, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Infrastructure Security Assessment Team and the Risk Assessment Methodology from Dams Team. Lillard's expertise in the Dam Safety community has resulted in technically defensible and practical guidance and regulations: especially Dam Safety – Policy and Procedures.



Quality Management System TRIVIA

It is time again for QMS Trivia, but first I would like to recognize June's winners for answering all five QMS questions correctly. The winners were Daniel Garcia, Bernadette Armijo and Lionel Romero. Remember the first three people who respond to gregory.s.allen@usace.army.mil with the correct answers will receive Level 1 Corps Bucks to our Corps Store. Here's this month's Questions:

1) What functional area is represented by the 36000 process numbers?
2) According to the QMS SharePoint what three items are listed as the end state for QMS?
3) What is the name of the SPA process in the QMS SharePoint under Operations Processes?
4) According to ER 5-1-14 what is the definition of Enterprise Standards?
5) What three items surround the mission in the USACE Quality & Performance Improvement Framework?

Finance Corner

Un-liquidated Review Process (ULO). It seems every time we turn around it is time to complete a ULO review. That is because according to Public Law 97-258 the Corps is required to complete a joint review of all un-liquidated obligations three times per year. The ULO review process can also be thought of as a *financial house-cleaning* which consists of reviewing all open obligations, commitments, accounts payables and customer orders. The review is generated and issued to the responsible employee associated to the funds for which the employee has a fiduciary responsibility for managing, expending and reviewing. When reviewing your ULO, keep in mind:

1. Any ULO that is more than 240-days old and color coded in "Green" should be reviewed carefully and remarks shall be provided as to when the obligation will be expended or closed.
2. If requesting that a Government Order be de-obligated, written documentation from the customer, agency, or district must be provided to Finance & Accounting stating that the work is complete and no further billing will occur.
3. Consider the size of the ULO review and allow enough time to research obligations and coordinate with others who may be involved with the obligation.
4. If the ULO review contains an obligation that should be under another responsible employee's review, notify Finance & Accounting. Finance will review 100 percent of the remarks and take action to close out all obligations. The Resource Mgr will sign the ULO review to close out the fiscal year in CEFMS.