

RIP RAP

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District

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Photo by Ronnie Schelby



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

Volume 23, Issue 6
June 2011

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District Engineer,
Lt. Col. Jason Williams

RipRap is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. It is published by the Public Affairs Office, Albuquerque District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army. Reader input is welcome. Photographs are official USACE photos unless otherwise indicated. For submission and writers' guidelines, contact the editor at 505-342-3171 or send email to: kristen.skopec@usace.army.mil

New Leader Assumes Command of South Pacific Division

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' South Pacific Division welcomed its 53rd Commander, Col. Michael C. Wehr, as he took command on June 3 during a change of command ceremony at the Bay Model Regional Visitor Center in Sausalito, Calif. Wehr accepted the Division guidon from the Deputy Commander of the Corps of Engineers, Maj. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple, during the symbolic passing of the colors with Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Koontz and outgoing Division Commander Col. William Leady. Leady resumed command of the Sacramento District.

Established in 1888, the Division comprises one-fifth of the United States and is one of the Corps' nine commands. It includes four operating districts headquartered in Albuquerque, Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco.

As Division Commander, Wehr is responsible for leading a professional workforce of more than 2,300 people. The Division manages a \$1.17 billion military and a \$400 million civil works program.

The region encompasses Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Oregon, Wyoming, Idaho and Texas.

Key missions include strengthening national security, supporting overseas contingency operations and managing the nation's water resource infrastructure for economic growth and environmental sustainability.



Colonel Michael C. Wehr

The Division team synchronizes Corps efforts with those of other federal, state and local agencies, the Army, the Air Force, the Administration and Congress to ensure the Corps provides exceptional support to military installations and civilian communities throughout the region.

Happy Birthday Army and Corps of Engineers! This 236th birthday on June 14, 2011 commemorates America's Army – Soldiers, Families and Civilians – who are achieving a level of excellence that is truly Army Strong. The Corps of Engineers celebrates its creation just two days later on June 16, 1775.



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

Cultural Immersion Course Promotes Introspection

By Kristen Skopec, Public Affairs

Imagine being given the opportunity, as part of your work, to step outside your culture and become completely immersed in the culture of another for several days, to be truly welcomed into homes of people who have different beliefs and vastly different historical experience, and to be shown why certain plants, animals and land features play an intricate role in their existence.

The Albuquerque District sponsored and the Cochiti Pueblo hosted the 2011 Native American Perspective Course April 25 to 28, which allowed 20 students from across the Corps and partner agencies to learn about their hosts, and each other, in a 24-hour-per-day, immersion experience.

It was the second time Cochiti Pueblo leadership stepped forward to conduct the course, which requires tremendous logistical support and unavoidable intrusion into the lives of the Cochiti people, because they feel so strongly about continuing a dialogue and encouraging understanding between their people and those working for the federal government. They explained that it was only in this decade that the Cochiti could stand to be in the same room with people from the Corps of Engineers.



Photo by Kris Skopec

Cochiti Pueblo children demonstrate a ceremonial dance during the 2011 Native American Perspective Course, April 27.

The Cochiti reservation is about 55 miles north of Albuquerque, N.M., and contains nearly 54,000 acres of land, a portion of which is dissected by the Rio Grande [River.]

For as long as the Cochiti people can remember, the river contributed to their enjoyment and food production. It defined where they lived and how they lived. Then, in the late 1950s, the Cochiti experienced a cataclysm when the federal government, which had passed legislation in the 1940s associated with Rio Grande flood control, identified the Cochiti Pueblo as the site of a dam and reservoir and set into motion the bulldozing of Cochiti farms, crops and homes by the river.

The Cochiti's world was turned upside down. They experienced the threat of having their land condemned in the government's acquisition process, and they lost a very

important religious site when the Corps began building the dam in the mid-1960s.

Although the Cochiti began the long and beleaguered process of fighting the encroachment within the United States legal system and taking their plight all the way to Congress, the construction went forward and 50 percent of their agricultural lands were destroyed.

The effects of losing this land were far reaching for the Cochiti, but they materialized most blatantly in a culture shift that undermined their language, their diet and their livelihoods.

At the time of the dam's construction, the Corps and the Cochiti barely communicated, as one side understood they were being directed to implement a logical project that would benefit many people downriver and the other

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side was understandably bitter and entrenched in a legal battle. The ensuing period from 1970 to 2000 was one of litigation, confrontation and hostility, on both sides.

In 1975, the Corps completed Cochiti Dam and Reservoir. When full, the reservoir can hold more than half a million acre-feet of water, which flows in from sources across more than 11,500 square miles. The five-mile-long dam towers 251 feet above the river and controls flooding and sedimentation. It is an important tool for managing the critical water resource that is the Rio Grande. Ultimately, Congress added recreation to the reservoir's purpose, as well.

Management of the dam and reservoir was difficult for the Corps for several years, since the relationship with the Cochiti continued to be strained.

In 2000, Albuquerque and the surrounding area experienced widespread drought, so the Corps and Cochiti were forced to discuss tactics and solutions to the problem. As a result, the District Engineer and Pueblo Governor began to have monthly meetings.

Over time, the frank discussions that ensued caused both parties to understand and appreciate the broad negative impacts to the Cochiti people, and the dialogue resulted in reconciliation.

The Corps held a reconciliation ceremony in 2003, near the place where Cochiti's religious site was destroyed. The entire Cochiti community attended, and the District Engineer apologized for the damage the government caused and committed to a future of collaboration.

In 2008, Cochiti Pueblo signed an historic agreement with the Corps to participate in the overall management of the Cochiti Lake area. Hosting the Native American Perspective Course is one way the Cochiti are actively collaborating with the Corps today.

The Course

Dr. Joseph Henry Suina, a retired University of New Mexico professor and former Cochiti Governor, was the lead facilitator for the four-day course. He accompanied the students during the many activities arranged to demonstrate and educate about Cochiti life, past and present.

Dr. Suina and other Cochiti leadership spoke at length about their desire to retain their native language, Keres. Suina explained that they perform all of their government functions and the majority of their



Photo by Kris Skopec

Dr. Joseph Henry Suina, the course facilitator, explains how life was for his ancestors living on Potrero Viejo, a mesa where his people made one of their final stands against the Spanish.

cultural practices in Keres and have developed programs dedicated to teaching the language to their children. Also, the Cochiti began each activity in the course with a prayer in Keres.

Students came from all backgrounds and professions, but many commented that the cultural exchange highlighted more similarities than differences between everyone. A community-wide dinner held on the last night of the course gave each student the chance to introduce themselves and speak about the experience.

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

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Interestingly, there were 20 completely individual perspectives, often accompanied by tears, verbalized by the group.

“The biggest impact on me had to be the telling of the Cochiti history leading up to the interaction with the government,” said Karen Downey, operations manager at John Martin Reservoir in Hasty, Colo. “To hear how dealings with the Corps disrupted the lives of the Cochiti people and nearly destroyed an entire culture with roots in the ancient past was very disturbing to me. The Cochiti peoples’ passionate recounting of their love of family and ancestors, sacred beliefs and connection to their native lands intertwined with their core values made me understand the important things that I should treasure in my own life.”

An Emergency Management Specialist for the Albuquerque District, Theresa Rogers, said, “Dr. Suina is an incredible facilitator and teacher. The compassion he has for his family, community and the world is amazing. Having attended this course has made me realize that many of us are focused on material possessions, and we waste time on things that have no value.”

One of the students who
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Photos by Kris Skopeck

A view of Cochiti land from atop the five-mile-long Cochiti Dam.

works in the District’s contracting division, Beverly Dodson, is half Cochiti. She said the course really touched her heart. “Since I’m half Cochiti, learning about the past struggles that my ancestors had to bear was hurtful, although being there in the present day brought back a lot of joyful memories as a child with my grandparents.”

Mary C. Anderson, a regulatory project manager in Detroit District, said the part of the training that had the biggest impact on her was focusing on core values versus individual gain, as well as developing open listening skills.

“Now, at work, I will be more open to hearing what the applicant, violator, consultant or agent has to say and get the full story behind a project,” Anderson said.



Students were taken to Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks, considered a significant place by the Cochiti.

Downey agreed with her. “I think this type of training is important because, at times, we as government employees do what is required of us and what is mandated by regulation, but perhaps forget to seek out the consequences of these actions on other people,” she said. “We not only need to do what is legal, but also what is right for the people we work for and the public.”

Dam Safety Conference Focuses on Partnership

Story and photos by Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs



the Native American people who live up and down the Rio Grande Valley.

Conference participants also were taken on a field trip to visit Cochiti Dam, where they met District Park Ranger Mark Rosacker.

The ranger (below) presented an emotional rendition of the story of the building of Cochiti Dam, how it changed the lives of the native people of the Pueblo de Cochiti forever and how the Corps and the Cochiti were able to set differences aside and work together to form a mutually beneficial relationship.

Three Corps employees were guest speakers at the Department of the Interior’s annual Dam Safety Coordinators Conference held in Albuquerque May 12.

The theme for this year’s conference was *Partnership in Dam Safety*, and the District’s Dam Safety Officer, Suzi Hess-Brittelle, discussed how several agencies pulled their resources together a few years ago to address issues at Cochiti Dam. The District’s Tribal Liaison, Dr. Ron Kneebone, discussed the importance and value in partnering with



Lights, Camera, Action at Corps’ Lakes

Public Affairs Specialist Mark Slimp has started producing videos of the District’s six lake operations projects. The first video will feature fun at Cochiti Lake.

The videos will be about two minutes each and will show the wide range of activities and facilities at each lake, as part of a Division-level project to promote President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors initiative.

When the project is finished, a web user will be able to roll a cursor over a

link on a web page that shows all of the recreation facilities throughout the South Pacific Division that are available to people who want to connect, or reconnect, with America’s Great Outdoors.

Slimp will shoot, write and edit the District’s videos, which will each take about a week to produce. Given the time demands of each video, the Division has set a completion goal of Sept. 30.

Public Affairs will announce when each video is completed and posted on various websites.



The first video captures images of Cochiti Lake.

District Happenings

Corps Program Recruits Minnows

By Ariane Pinson, District Technical Writer / Editor

Endangered animals frequently survive in natural habitats that have been grossly altered or have largely disappeared due to human or natural causes. In the case of the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow, water development projects and practices on the Rio Grande and the Pecos River have contributed to the elimination of this fish from most of its original range. Today, they are only found along the Middle Rio Grande, from Cochiti Dam to Elephant Butte Reservoir. Reintroduction efforts have been made in other reaches, but river conditions are different and success is not ensured.

This is why the work of Corps Biologist Michael Porter and Hydrologist/H&H Section Chief Tamara Massong is so important. During the last decade, their studies have focused on the interaction between hydrology, channel morphology, minnow nursery habitat requirements and minnow life history in order to recreate optimal conditions for spawning and recruitment (survival to adulthood). These concepts form the foundation for many Corps and Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program activities aimed at helping to preserve the species, including habitat restoration, population viability modeling and adaptive management.

If their efforts to adaptively manage the environment for minnows in the Middle Rio Grande are successful, they could provide crucial information to successfully reintroduce this species throughout its former range.

The key to successful recruitment is the size and duration of the peak river flow during spring runoff in early June. Therefore, Massong and Porter pushed for the experimental manipulation of peak spring river flows as a means to improve spawning and, indirectly, recruitment of a new generation.

“In 2002 and 2003,” Porter recalls, “We collaborated with the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife]

Service to experimentally ramp flows up to around 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the Central Avenue gauge. This caused an increase in the number of fish spawning but didn’t translate into greater recruitment, leaving the scientists baffled.

In the following year, natural flows kept the river above 3,000 cfs for five days, which flooded shoreline areas and sandbars. This produced little evidence of spawning (as measured by fish egg counts downstream), yet there was a huge increase in recruitment.

“Since the number of eggs going downstream was abysmal, some folks thought the minnow was gone,” Porter said. Instead, he said, the numbers caught in nets in the fall increased 38-fold.

What Porter concluded was that improved recruitment required overbanking floods so that fertilized eggs could hatch, and juvenile fish could mature in the shallow slackwater environments outside of the main channel.

The idea of a “recruitment flow,” a manipulation of the spring runoff to create a peak flow of at least 3,000 cfs for at least five days at the Central Avenue gauge, was developed within the Collaborative Program. This was achieved naturally in 2004 and 2005, due to large snowpacks in the watershed, but not in 2006. So, in 2007, the Service supported the Corps plan to manipulate the spring flows to create a recruitment flow. As a result, recruitment rose.

Beginning in 2008, the Corps worked closely with Pueblo de Cochiti, the Service,



The Rio Grande silvery minnow lives in a limited stretch of the Rio Grande River.

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the Bureau of Reclamation, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, the Rio Grande Compact Commission, Santa Ana Pueblo and others to develop a multi-year plan to temporarily detain a portion of the spring runoff behind Cochiti Dam and then release it during the peak of spring flow in order to ensure minnow recruitment in the Middle Rio Grande.

This project required a year-long approval process in order to obtain a deviation from the Corps' water control plan. The objectives of the plan are simple: in drier years, the goal is to achieve the minimum recruitment flow; in wetter years, higher peak flows would also benefit native floodplain vegetation that provides habitat for an endangered bird species, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

The operation for recruitment flows in 2009 led to a significant increase in minnow recruitment. In 2010, higher spring flows permitted the Corps to not only achieve recruitment flows, but also some overbanking flows.

"We had very good spawning in response to the 2010 deviation," Porter recalls, "but fish numbers declined dramatically in late summer, indicating some other environmental factors are limiting populations, such as declines in

food supply or available habitat."

Due to drought, spring flows this year in the Middle Rio Grande are too low to be manipulated as in previous years. Instead, Porter and colleagues from the Collaborative Program will monitor the natural peak flow and silvery minnow response to that flow.

According to Porter, "Naturally, the Rio Grande produces recruitment flows in the Middle Rio Grande in about 50 percent of years. Through manipulation of the hydrograph, we should be able to raise this to about 75 percent of years."

The Corps hopes to work with the Pueblo de Cochiti and other stakeholders at Cochiti Lake to seek ways to continue this adaptive flow management in the future. But, that still leaves one in four years when flows are insufficient in this stretch of the river. 2011 is looking to be one of these years. Porter is hopeful for recruitment in some areas but doesn't think recruitment will occur in all reaches.

"Overall, it's not good for 2011," Porter said. "But the fish is well-adapted to a desert river and it is likely some recruitment will occur this year, setting the stage for a rebound in future years."

Agencies Tried for Deviation but Water too Limited

By Dennis Garcia, chief, Reservoir Control Branch

In early spring, the Corps, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service closely monitor hydrologic conditions to determine if natural snow-melt runoff would provide a suitable hydrograph for spawning and/or recruitment of the Rio Grande silvery minnow. The determination is based on the forecasted runoff volumes for February and March, which are provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) and

the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). If the volume is not expected to provide a flow of 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Albuquerque for at least five days, then the agencies evaluate whether there is sufficient flow to create an artificial peak for recruitment (a deviation from normal operations). An ideal hydrograph provides a stable flow for newly hatched silvery minnows to feed for several days in inundated habitat before moving into the river.

Anticipating a peak flow of about 2,000 cfs at Albuquerque this spring, the following scenario was presented to the Rio Grande Compact Commission and the Pueblo de Cochiti whose approvals are required under the current deviation: In an effort to sustain flows of approximately 2,000 cfs in the Albuquerque reach of the Rio Grande, the Corps would detain up to 5,000 acre-feet of water at Cochiti Lake. The tentative operating plan

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(determinant on the shape and timing of the inflow hydrograph to Cochiti) was to detain any inflow into Cochiti above 2,500 cfs up to a total of no more than 5,000 acre-feet, at which point releases out of Cochiti would remain at, or above, 2,500 cfs until the additional 5,000 acre-feet is vacated. The purpose of this deviation from standard operations is to sustain flows

of 2,000 cfs at Albuquerque for a longer period than the anticipated natural runoff.

The Commission and the Pueblo approved this operation schedule.

However, even the best laid water management plans are subject to changing hydrologic conditions, including little precipitation and unanticipated decreases in snowpack. The proposed minor

regulation evaporated with the snowpack, as forecasted runoff volumes continued to decline. By May 1, it was clear that even a modest deviation was no longer possible and that normal spring runoff operations would be put in place. The minnow spawning will be documented, and success will be based on recruitment data collected later this summer.

Partners Hold Flood Fight Workshop to Ready Skills

The District, in cooperation with the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, the New Mexico State Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and several local flood control agencies, participated in the 2011 Rio Grande Flood Fighting Workshop May 11-12 in Albuquerque, N.M. The workshop was designed to enhance communication and coordination among federal, state and local agencies to improve the response to any flood emergencies in the surrounding area.



Photo by Lisa Lockyear

District Emergency Management Specialist Theresa Rogers, along with others workshop participants, learn sandbagging techniques.

Commander Discusses Afghanistan Engineering at Lunch



Photo by Ronnie Schelby

Lt. Col. Jason Williams was the guest speaker at the Society of American Military Engineers' luncheon May 11, at the Chama River Brewing Co., in Albuquerque.

He spoke about the Afghanistan Reconstruction Effort, as he served in various leadership positions while deployed in Afghanistan prior to taking command of the Albuquerque District in June 2010.

District's Honorary Commander Fills Special Role

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

Christine Glidden is the first person to hold the title of Honorary Commander of the Albuquerque District. Last year, the Corps joined Kirtland Air Force Base's Honorary Commander program to encourage partnership and outreach with the base and community leaders.

The program, which began in 1995, was established in the hope of achieving mutual benefits, understanding and better communication between the military and civilian communities. Glidden was one of 29 honorary commanders installed during a ceremony at the base July 16, 2010.

"The District is strengthened by our involvement in the Honorary Commander program, but having Christine Glidden assigned to us has been exceptionally rewarding," District Commander Lt. Col. Williams said. "Christine is my eyes and ears in the public, and I can't reiterate enough the importance of her insight and outreach."

As Honorary Commander, Glidden accompanies Lt. Col. Williams to various meetings and on tours of project sites. She then takes the information she learned and shares it, and her experiences, as she interacts in the community, helping to explain and educate about the Corps' numerous missions.

"Wherever I go, when I begin to speak about my involvement with the Corps of Engineers, people really stop and listen," Glidden said. "The Corps is an enigma; people don't understand what the Corps does. People are always impressed with what I share with them."

Glidden said she is very determined about informing people in the community, "The military is underrepresented in our community, and that's why the Honorary Commander program is so invaluable," she said.

As an active member of many community organizations, including the Board of Trustees for the Albuquerque Museum of Art History, Women in Communications, and Marketing Masters of Toastmasters, she has invited the

the Commander and Deputy Commander to attend myriad community events. One event of note was when Lt. Col.

Williams accompanied Glidden to an invitation-only lunch for the opening of the New Mexico legislature.

Glidden and her husband, Jim, a Vietnam War Navy Veteran, own Glidden & Associates, a cost estimating, 3D modeling and shop drawing company. Prior to this business, they owned an ornamental and architectural metal fabrication business. Examples of the work that they produced locally are the Tricentennial Towers at Rio Grande and I-40, Rachel's Courtyard located at Presbyterian Hospital and the entry gates of the Isotopes Park.

An avid athlete, Glidden organized a five-person, District team for the Bataan Memorial Death March through White Sands Missile Range. It was her fifth time participating in this grueling event; however, she has competed in 85 endurance events overall, and she is planning on participating in a POW Run this fall. Glidden said sports and endurance run in her family, as her 25-year-old daughter, Jenna, was the 2002 New Mexico track athlete of the year.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Todd Berenger

Lt. Col. Kimberly Colloton, former District Commander, officially installs Glidden as Honorary Commander in a ceremony last July.

Curado Praised for Small Business Work

Deputy Director Daniel Curado of the Albuquerque District's Small Business Program was awarded the 2011 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year award at the New Mexico Small Business Week Awards Luncheon, June 2, in Albuquerque, N.M., for his important work with veteran-owned small businesses.

Pictured with Curado (center) accepting the award, from left to right are: State Director of the New Mexico Small Business Development Center Michael

A. Rivera; U.S. Small Business Administration Deputy Administrator Region VI Marie C. Johns; Albuquerque District Deputy for Small Business Programs Daniel Curado; U.S. Small



Photo by Lisa Lockyear

Business Administration Regional Administrator Region VI Yolanda Garcia Olivarez; and U.S. Small Business Administration New Mexico District Director John C. Woosley.

District Commander Attends Unveiling of Sculptures

National Nuclear Security Administration and Los Alamos National Laboratory leadership invited District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams to attend the unveiling of two new statues May 19. One statue was in honor of Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves, a Corps of Engineers officer who was an important figure in the development of Los Alamos National Laboratory, specifically during the Manhattan Project and who also oversaw the construction of the Pentagon, and one of his colleague, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, a bright and dedicated scientist whose partnership with Groves

won the wartime race to build an atomic bomb.

The historic sculptures, part of the Los Alamos Art in Public Places Collection, stand in their permanent location on the south lawn of Fuller Lodge, overlooking downtown Los Alamos, N.M.

They are the first of many planned under Los Alamos' Historic Sculptures Master Plan, which includes sculptures for five areas: ancestral pueblo, homestead, ranch school, Manhattan Project and Cold War.

Family members of Groves and Oppenheimer came from across the country and as far away as England.



Photo by Kris Skopec

Lt. Col. Williams stands with the new statues of (left) Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and Lt. Gen. Leslie R. Groves.

Corps' Nominee Selected as Red Cross Hero

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

Cochiti Lake's Supervisory Park Ranger Mark Rosacker nominated Sandoval County Sheriff's Department Reserve Officer Dick Porter for the *Red Cross Real Heroes* award, and Porter was selected for the recognition.

"I have worked with Dick at Cochiti Lake for two summers now, and I find his willingness to help in any situation of great value to our rangers here at Cochiti," Rosacker said.

Rosacker's nomination package detailed that Dick Porter is a driving force behind an ongoing, summer long, boating and water safety program at Cochiti Lake. It told how Porter works tirelessly day and night to assist rangers in the performance of their duties. Specifically, he performs on-foot and on-the-water "beach patrol" in the swimming day use area near Cochiti Campground, he performs cooperative on-the-water boating safety patrols along side Cochiti park rangers and he frequently acts as the "de-facto" liaison with members of the Sandoval County Sheriff's Department.

During the summer of 2010, Porter's actions were instrumental in radio communications and operating the Sheriff's Department Patrol Boat while assisting with the respectful

recovery of human remains from Cochiti Lake; remains of an individual who had drowned upstream in the Rio Grande.

"Dick Porter is unassuming in his professional demeanor; a kind and courteous man in his communications and dealings with the public, park rangers and with fellow law enforcement officers," Rosacker said. "Dick also works closely with the Young Marines, and various Boy Scout groups to benefit public safety, water safety and security while on duty at Cochiti Lake."



Photo by Mark Rosacker

Dick Porter is a Corps volunteer, as well as a Sandoval County Sheriff's Department Reserve Officer, who lives on-site at Cochiti Lake for a part of his summer and works continuously to improve water safety in New Mexico. He was given the Red Cross Real Heroes award in a ceremony May 24.

District Identifies Karen Sill as an Emerging Leader

Congratulations are in order for Karen Sill of the Mechanical Unit of the Design Branch in the Albuquerque District.

Sill was recently nominated to attend the 2011 Emerging Leaders Conference in New Orleans, July 29 to Aug. 5.

She has been recognized by the commanders in the South Pacific Division as part of the next generation of

Corps leaders.

Sill has worked in two Corps' jobs, first in Portland, Ore., as a mechanical engineer focused on civil works projects and now here as a design engineer. Those two positions, and one in the private sector, have positioned her to assume a leadership role in the Corps.

Furthermore, Sill has taken

on the role of mentor for other entry and mid-level mechanical engineers.

She is an *Karen K. Sill* up-and-coming leader who has tremendous potential.



Corps Releases Recreation Plan

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a Recreation Strategic Plan May 26, that seeks to transform and reposition the recreation program while maintaining the Corps' role as a major federal, water-based recreation provider.

USACE hosts more than 370 million visits annually at its 422 lake and river projects in 43 states. Visitation has steadily increased in recent years resulting in increased demands on Corps' resources and facilities. This upward trend is forecasted to continue. For more information on the USACE Recreation Strategic Plan visit www.corpslakes.us/strategy.

Gov Vehicles Track Speed, More

Several of the Corps' vehicles are being monitored via Networkcar, a system that provides global positioning system tracking and remote diagnostic readings.

The system connects with the car's engine and transmits information via satellite. It allows people in logistics to monitor the fleet to reduce speeding and accidents, recover stolen vehicles, track precious cargo and prevent

unauthorized use. In the case of speeding, an email detailing specific violations will be sent to logistics, so the employee can be told and warned.

The units are installed in the dashboard with the antenna at the base of the windshield inside the vehicle.

Formation of Cochiti Basin Astronomy Club

A Cochiti Basin Astronomy club was formed to serve the communities of Cochiti Lake, Cochiti Pueblo, Pena Blanca and the surrounding area. The mission of the club is to support public education in astronomy while providing members with the resources and opportunities to more fully explore the wonders of the cosmos. The Cochiti Basin club will conduct three star parties this summer, July 2, Aug. 20, and Sept. 2 (weather permitting). These events are sponsored by the Corps and will be held at the boat ramp parking lot. If you are interested, contact Craig at 505-465-0445 or Bill at wriker@mindspring.com

Cochiti on Facebook

Cochiti Lake has a FACEBOOK page that has gained enough followers to be given an abbreviated web address. To view their information, check out the following: <http://www.facebook.com/usace.cochiti.lake>

Climate Change Risks

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar released a report in May that assesses climate change risks and how these risks could impact water operations, hydro-power, flood control, and fish and wildlife in the western United States. The report to Congress, prepared by Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, represents the first consistent and coordinated assessment of risks to future water supplies across eight major Reclamation river basins, including the Colorado, Rio Grande and Missouri river basins.

The report, which responds to requirements under the SECURE Water Act of 2009, shows several increased risks to western United States water resources during the 21st century.

The report notes that projected changes in temperature and precipitation are likely to impact the timing and quantity of stream flows in all western basins, which could impact water available to farms and cities, hydropower generation, fish and wildlife, and other uses such as recreation. Projections of future temperature and precipitation are based on multiple climate models and various projections of future greenhouse gas emissions, technological advancements, and global population estimates. The SECURE Water Act Report is available online at <http://www.usbr.gov/climate>.