

# RIP RAP

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District

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*Civil Engineer Essam Mostafa, 59th Forward Engineering Support Team (FEST) member, examines the water system at Santa Clara Pueblo. See the story on pages 4 and 5.*

Photo by Ronnie Schelby



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

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District Engineer,  
Lt. Col. Jason Williams

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## District, Navajo Nation Housing Authority Posture for Partnership

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District and the Navajo Nation Housing Authority (NHA) finalized a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Feb. 13 that forges the way for a new working relationship.

The agreement allows the District to assist the Tribal agency with surveying, mapping, aerial photography and construction and engineering services as part of the process of housing people of the Navajo Nation.

"I think this is going to be a very good opportunity, not only for the Navajo Housing Authority but for the Corps of Engineers," said Earl Tulley, senior development coordinator. "The District is local. They have done work on the Navajo Nation, so they have an understanding of our culture and traditions.

That is really important, and I feel fortunate we were able to initiate the MOA."

The particulars of the agreement initiate a time-frame of work for five years, potentially valued at up to \$10 million. However, nothing in the agreement requires the NHA to hire the District for work, or requires the District to accept work, except as may be set forth in specific support agreements.

"This agreement serves as the framework for outlining unique services the Corps can provide to the Nation that would enable us to more efficiently and effectively construct housing," said NHA Survey Manager Michael Paisano. "Some of the services, like aerial photography and mapping are crucial for the construction of roads, bridges, infrastructure and housing."

"The Albuquerque District of the U.S. Army



Photo by Christian Bigwater

*District employees observe as Navajo Nation Housing Authority representatives (bottom row center) Senior Development Coordinator Earl Tulley and (left) Survey Manager Michael Paisano witness the signing of the MOA by District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams.*

Corps of Engineers is proud to be considered for the work outlined in the

Memorandum of Agreement, and we will bring the right expertise and experience to ensure the NHA's projects are undertaken successfully," said District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams.

As part of the agreement, the District may also provide contract management, quality assurance, quality control and any subcontractor oversight for the production of the final products and such other related goods and services as may be agreed upon in the future. The Navajo Nation extends into the states of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, covering more than 27,000 square miles. The 2010 census estimates there are more than 300,000 people who are part of the Nation.

**To see this story in video:**  
[www.spa.usace.army.mil/videos/navajo.wmv](http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/videos/navajo.wmv)

## District Engages in Emergency Roof Repairs at Kirtland

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

In early December 2011, a significant wind event damaged the roofs of several buildings on Kirtland Air Force Base. The winds were estimated greater than 50 mph along the flightline.

The base contacted the District in late December seeking assistance in getting contracts awarded to repair the roofs. According to Connie Runyan, project manager, the base turned to the District because they felt the Corps would be the fastest way to handle the contracts.

The District was able to address all but one of the contracts, in-house, through the District's Contracting Division, using the simplified acquisition strategy.

Contract Specialist Joseph Rael said this strategy is used for all projects below \$150,000 and is designed to reduce administrative costs, improve opportunities for underrepresented small businesses, promote efficiency and economy in contracting and avoid unnecessary burdens for agencies and contractors.

However, the damage to a large hangar near the flightline was more serious and



Photos courtesy of Connie Runyan



required a large contract.

"The easiest way to get this awarded was to bring in the Corps'

Omaha District, which has a special emergency roof repair contract for use for disaster response," Runyan said.

The repair work on the large hangar is expected to take 120 days, in two phases, which will allow the users of the hangar to continue their mission in half of the structure.

The first phase of the project, which involves an assessment of the damage and an explanation of what will be required to repair the roof, was awarded Jan. 30 to Bristol, a Native

Alaskan firm.

The second phase will be negotiated in early March, after the Omaha District receives the contractor's proposal.

"The base covered the hole in the large hangar using a water ballasting system to hold the temporary cover in place," Runyan said.

"However, despite being covered, base personnel cannot work on the damaged side of the hangar for safety reasons."

### Wind Powering America!

Did You Know...

The U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Program and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) published a wind resource map for the state of New Mexico. This map is a

For more information: <http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov>

key piece of understanding the state's wind resource potential from a development, policy, and a jobs and economic development impact perspective.



This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 8 (Develop a risk-informed and budget-aligned lifecycle asset management plan to optimize critical infrastructure investment).

District Happenings



Photo courtesy of Chris Schooley  
By Kristen Skoepck, Public Affairs

Park Rangers Chris Schooley (left) and Nicholas Parks  
situate the Cochiti Lake Project's boat in the dock.

## New Dock to Enable Park Rangers to Respond on Lake Faster

The District completed the installation of a fully enclosed service dock at Cochiti Lake March 2, allowing the project's patrol boat to be on the water at all times. It is an improvement the park rangers believe will have significant public safety benefits.

Ever since the lake's marina was removed in the late 1990s, if there was a boating emergency, the Cochiti park rangers had to go get the boat, hitch it up, take it to the lake and launch from the boat ramp, which they estimated took about 20 to 30 minutes.

"In previous recreation seasons, the boat was housed in our vehicle compound when not actively being used," said Park Ranger Chris Schooley. "This meant response times to rescue or emergency operations on the lake could be upwards of 20 minutes. Now, if there is an issue on the lake, we can be down to the boat dock and on the water in 5 to 10 minutes."

The composite dock on floating pontoons, which cost about \$96,000, is encased in sheet metal and has a lakeside garage door.

The dock was placed in the same area as the previous marina and will securely house the

22-foot Boston Whaler Guardian the rangers use to oversee lake activities and, ultimately, save lives.

Inside the dock will be a hydraulic lift that can raise the boat from the water during storms or for the winter. Inside the boat will be life-saving equipment and high-quality radios that will allow rangers to coordinate rescue activities with other agencies.

"It's a very innovative design with few moving parts and safety in mind," said Park Ranger Nicholas Parks. "A small electric motor pumps air into the large blue floats under the boat, raising it out of the water. The boat is lowered by simply turning a valve and re-flooding the floats. This means, in the event of a power loss and people are in danger, we can still get the boat on the water."

"Right now, the whaler is the only boat we have," Supervisory Park Ranger Mark Rosacker said. "However, we are in the process of purchasing a maintenance vessel to help remove runoff debris we anticipate will keep entering the lake in the wake of last year's wildfire."

District Happenings

## FEST Returns to Continue Technical Assistance to Pueblos

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

In a second trip to Albuquerque, the South Pacific Division's 59th Forward Engineering Support Team - Advanced (SPD FEST-A) visited the District in the beginning of March to continue lending engineering support to two New Mexico Pueblos.

While the team's leadership visited in December to explain FEST's purpose and to do some fact gathering with the Santa Clara and Cochiti Pueblos, this visit involved the entire team, encompassing people who have worked across the world, from Egypt to Guam.

During time spent at the Pueblo of Santa Clara, tribal members Adrian Garcia, Dino Chavarria, Ernestine Naranjo and Ben Chavarria showed the team a water tank that used to deliver fresh, potable water to the south parcel of the Pueblo's housing but failed and was taken offline eight years ago. A tour and inspection of the entire water system ensued, and each FEST member brought individualized expertise to the system's examination, yet they all collaborated to arrive at workable solutions.

"The team of specialists will provide expert opinions and possible resolutions to your problems," said Officer in Charge Maj. Seth Wacker. "There may be a variety of cost-effective solutions, but the team doesn't endorse specific contractors to do the work."

Next, a day was spent at Pueblo de Cochiti with tribal member Pete Trujillo. The team was asked to look at the drainage and sanitation of the Pueblo's sewage lagoon system.

During brainstorming sessions after the site visits, FEST members bounced ideas and solutions off each other.

"It's very important that the team keeps an open mind and has dialogue, because there are always various alternatives to every problem and some can be overlooked if the final outcome is already pigeonholed," Maj. Wacker said. "Also, cooperation between the Pueblos and the FEST team is key, as well as openness to discuss the issues that are important to the



Photo by Ronnie Schelby

*FEST members talk to Santa Clara Pueblo member Adrian Garcia (in blue) about the Pueblo's water system.*

*Pueblos."*

The entire 59th FEST deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, and, after the team's return in August 2011, the members were told how the Corps' senior leadership supported and appreciated their work. Each member was given an award and a division coin from SPD Commander Brig. Gen. Michael Wehr.

As Officer in Charge, Maj. Wacker is responsible for ensuring the team keeps their skills sharp in between missions to foreign countries and places in crisis. The trips to the Albuquerque District to work with Native American communities, a first for the Corps of Engineers, are helping to keep team members engaged, while providing valuable information

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and assistance to the Pueblos. The FEST consultation and recommendations are free of charge.

The team plans to return to Albuquerque in mid-April to present their recommendations and findings to the Pueblos.

*At right: Officer in Charge of FEST Maj. Seth Wacker gathers information from Pete Trujillo about the drainage and sanitation of Pueblo de Cochiti's sewage lagoon system.*



Photos by Ronnie Schelby

## Meet the Members of the 59th Forward Engineering Support Team

*Major Seth Wacker  
Officer in Charge*



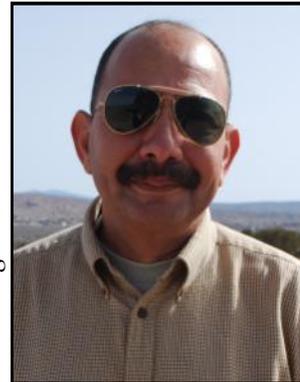
Maj. Wacker has served in the Army since 2001 and was assigned as Officer in Charge of the FEST in August 2011.

*Sgt. 1st Class Steven Martin  
NCOIC & Const. Supervisor*



Sgt. 1st Class Martin provides for all logistical needs. He has 14-plus years in the Army and joined FEST in November 2011.

*Essam Mostafa  
Civil Engineer*



Mr. Mostafa, a native Arabic speaker from Egypt, is the team's Civil Engineer and helps find solutions with what's available at a site.

*Bill Yang  
Electrical Engineer*



Mr. Yang joined FEST in February 2011. As the team's electrical engineer, he sees electricity as the highest priority and conducts physical inspections of project sites.

*Tin Kyaw  
Mechanical Engineer*



Originally from Burma, Mr. Kyaw joined FEST in November 2009. He specializes in the mechanical aspects of a project, including ventilation systems, plumbing and fire protection.

*Dr. Sonya Olbrantz  
Environmental Engineer*



Dr. Olbrantz joined FEST in June 2010. As the team's environmental engineer and program manager, she focuses on health hazards, leaks, water quality and contamination.

District Happenings

## Soaking a “Site” for Science

By Ariane Pinson, Technical Writer/Editor

Although many archaeological sites are located along lakeshores across the country, little is known about how changes in water levels affect these sites. Jonathan Van Hoose, one of the District’s archaeologists, set out to change that.

The opportunity arose when the District was planning a deviation from the normal water control plan at Cochiti Lake: the temporary detention of water at the lake during the spring runoff to create a slightly higher peak spring runoff discharge downstream to facilitate spawning of the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow and help maintain habitat for the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher. The detention of water at Cochiti Lake – even though only for a short period – causes a rise in lake level, flooding shoreline areas and potentially impacting near-shore archaeological sites. Federal agencies are required by law to consider the effects of their actions on historic and cultural resources.

“There was a significant potential for adverse effects to 115 archaeological sites during such operations,” Van Hoose recalls, “To mitigate these impacts through surface collection and excavation at such a large number of sites would have been very costly. In addition, these activities would have told us nothing about how fluctuating reservoir levels affect archaeological sites.”

So in 2008, Van Hoose and former District archaeologist Lance Lundquist proposed an agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office with funding from the District’s Lake Operations Branch to study whether fluctuating lake levels redistribute artifacts along the shoreline by actually tracking the movement of artifacts at the lake over a five-year period



Photo by Greg Everhart

*District archaeologists created an artificial archaeological site along the shore of Cochiti Lake and placed artifacts they made to see the effects from fluctuating lake levels.*

under controlled conditions. But, along the way, they encountered their first hitch: they could not use real prehistoric artifacts in the study because to do so would require destroying archaeological sites to obtain the artifacts; losing some of those artifacts due to movement or burial; and potentially having the artifacts cluster downwind on the shoreline, creating a “new” site with real artifacts.

“To begin with,” Van Hoose explains, “we found a spot along the shoreline without a documented archaeological site. Then we created an artificial site using small aluminum disks as stand-ins for stone and ceramic artifacts. We picked aluminum because it is similar in density to stone tools and ceramic sherds,” the main artifact types found on archaeological sites. Items with similar densities and shapes are likely to be moved by water in similar ways, making aluminum disks a good analog for artifacts. “The aluminum disks were each stamped with a unique number, and laid out in a series of four rows at our ‘site.’ The original location of each row was marked with a series of rebar stakes driven into the ground. Each row was roughly perpendicular to the shoreline, running from the average lake

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elevation to above the expected elevation of the lake during the deviation.”

In 2009, there was enough water in the river that a deviation action was not conducted; however, water was temporarily detained behind the dam in an emergency action to enable the retrieval of a drowning victim, resulting in a temporary lake rise of seven feet.

When Van Hoose and colleagues visited the site the following fall, the aluminum “artifacts” had not moved much. Some had been buried, and those close to the shore had moved a little bit. In 2010, though, a wetter winter allowed the District to retain more water at the lake to enable overbanking flows downstream. The lake temporarily rose 17 feet, completely inundating the site. No deviation occurred in 2011, due to drought.

According to Van Hoose, “When we went out in October 2011, it was very clear how high the lake had risen during the 2010 deviation. A line of driftwood and other objects had accumulated at the high-water mark.” At the site, some of the aluminum artifacts within five feet of the high-water mark, within the wave zone, had moved 15 to 20 inches from their original location; others could not be found at all, even with a metal detector. “There was lots of disturbance, considering the site had only been in the wave zone for a month or

two at most,” he observes. Interestingly, artifacts lower on the landscape – between the ordinary lake elevation and the wave zone associated with the high water mark – were not affected, although inundated by the rising lake.

From his vantage point halfway through this study, Van Hoose thinks results will show that: a) Most of the impact to archaeological sites from reservoir operations will occur to artifacts and architectural features on the surface close to the shoreline. Buried materials are unlikely to be impacted. b) Most of the damage is a result of wave action when water levels are constant. Damage resulting from lake rise and fall is relatively minimal. c) Inundated archaeological sites lying below the wave zone are likely to be minimally affected by reservoir operations.

Van Hoose is looking forward to revisiting the site in mid-2012 and again in 2013, after the spring runoff. In 2013, he wants to relocate every one of the original artifacts to see how far it has moved or how deeply it has been buried. He is confident that “by nailing down the impacts of lake levels on surface artifacts, the study will help the Corps meet the federal mandate to properly consider how our actions affect archaeological sites.” Van Hoose is looking forward to turning on the metal detector and listening for the satisfying beep that indicates another artifact has been found.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA Collaborate on Clean Water Act

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have submitted final guidance to clarify protection of waters under the Clean Water Act to the Office of Management and Budget for federal inter-agency review. The guidance will provide more predictable and consistent procedures for identifying waters and wetlands protected under the Clean

Water Act.

In April 2011, the agencies released draft guidance to clarify protection of waters under the Clean Water Act. About 230,000 public comments on the draft guidance were received. Most recognized the importance of effective implementation of the Clean Water Act to protect human health and water quality. The Corps and EPA have also heard requests from Congress, industry

organizations, environmental groups, states and the public for rulemaking to further clarify the requirements of the Clean Water Act consistent with decisions of the Supreme Court.

The agencies are finalizing the guidance while continuing to work on a rulemaking.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers.



**This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 9 (Develop an enriched culture of discipline and innovation to deliver resilient and sustainable infrastructure solutions).**

## District Happenings



Photos courtesy of Larry Baca



# District Oversees Maintenance of Border Fence Breaches

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

**H**oles are cut and burrows are dug under the border fence between the United States and Mexico each and every day, and they never seem to end.

Breaches are especially prevalent in February and March, during the harvest season for marijuana, in the Albuquerque District's area of responsibility, necessitating the United States government to have maintenance contracts in place to repair them.

When Border Patrol agents find breaches or burrows, they stop and mark the area using GPS coordinates to obtain the latitude and longitude. They enter this information, along with the type of fence and photographs, into a database called the Breach Module.

Larry Baca, quality assurance and construction inspector for the El Paso Resident Office, who has been involved in border fence maintenance for nearly three years, said every breach is assigned a number by the Breach Module. The District's maintenance contractor is required

to make the repair within 24 hours. The contractor works seven days a week.

"We take care of approximately 280 miles of fence and access road from Animas, N.M., near the Arizona border, all the way to Sierra Blanca, Texas," Baca said. "I do random inspections of the repairs, and in the [Border Patrol's] El Paso Sector we have more breaches than anywhere else."

According to Baca, there are multiple breaches per day in the portion of the fence the District maintains.

The El Paso Sector of the fence runs from Santa Teresa, N.M., to Fabens, Texas, about 50 miles of which runs alongside Juarez, Mexico, a heavily populated area rife with gang activity associated with illegal drugs. Breaches in this area are made using a variety of tools.

In urban areas like El Paso, the fence is usually classified as a "pedestrian fence" and constructed of 1 or 2½ inch chain link, expanded metal or wire mesh, sometimes rising as high as 18 feet, where the primary

goal is to stop pedestrian traffic. In rural areas, the fence is more likely to be classified as "vehicle fence" constructed primarily to block vehicle access rather than pedestrians. It, too, uses various materials and designs including bollard posts, Normandy-style barriers and Vietnam-era legacy "landing mat" fence. The fence sometimes extends underground.

Multiple gates in the fence, especially in urban areas, allow maintenance workers the access necessary to fix breaches.

"There are a lot of gates in the El Paso Sector because it runs along the Rio Grande and the access road is on the south side of the fence," Baca said. "Many of these gates are large, 20 foot-sliding gates to accommodate the maintenance and Border Patrol vehicles that need to access the fence via the levee road."

Baca said he and the contractor look at the Breach Module each day, and Baca

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verifies and edits the module to assign the proper contract line items to each breach. The contractor then downloads the information and sends a four-man team made up of a supervisor, two welders and a helper to each breach location.

“The team has been harassed while making repairs, and they have had their photos taken by observers on the Mexican side,” Baca said. “However, they work meticulously on the repairs and ensure the fence is restored to its original state or

better. Often, you can’t even tell repairs were made.”

Baca said, last year, the maintenance contract for fence repairs was worth \$1.7 million. The contract runs for a year and includes options.

The District not only takes care of breaches but all aspects of the fence, including the foundation which can erode under heavy rain.

According to Baca, the media has reported an 80 percent decrease in illegal crossings because of increased patrolling of the fence, and he

has noticed the difference.

“The system is good and getting better,” Baca said.

For now, Baca and the maintenance contractor stay ready to respond to breaches as they occur, anywhere along the 280 miles they cover.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection works to keep terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. It also has a responsibility for securing and facilitating trade and travel, while enforcing hundreds of U.S. regulations, including immigration and drug laws.



Photo courtesy of Larry Baca

## Temporary Duty at HQ Provides Enrichment Opportunity

By Kristen Skoepck, Public Affairs

When faced with a large workload and a shrunken staff, the South Pacific Division (SPD) decided to consider candidates from across the Division to be rotated at the SPD Regional Integration Team (RIT) at headquarters in Washington D.C. for four months of temporary duty. An employee from Albuquerque District was selected as the first.

As a candidate for the duty, Julie Alcon, chief of Environmental Resources, particularly stood out because of her planning experience. She became the first “Endowed Chair” for the SPD RIT and worked from Oct. 3, 2011, to Jan. 27, 2012.

Other people who regularly work in the SPD RIT are Pauline Acosta, planner; Joseph Bittner, programmer; and Brad Schwichtenberg, civil deputy. Regular employees of SPD RIT are hired by HQ. The Endowed Chair, however, is selected by SPD.

“There are eight RITs at headquarters, one for each Division,” Alcon said. “Each district in SPD will rotate a planner or project manager through for the rest of the year.”

The SPD RIT is essential in coordinating and managing regional project and program issues and reviews at headquarters. It is the primary point of contact at headquarters for SPD communications, both internal and external to the Corps, related to project and programs issues. The RIT also has the role of budget development, in coordination with SPD, Program Integration Division, Counsel, Resource Management, and others. It works to integrate horizontally and vertically the regional performance and execution goals. Furthermore, the RIT prepares and responds to congressional inquiries on projects.

“The RITs provide support to the Assistant Secretary of the Army Civil Works, Chief of



Photo Courtesy of Julie Alcon

*Left to Right: Chief, SPD RIT Scott Whiteford; Civil Deputy Brad Schwichtenberg; Planner Pauline Acosta; Endowed Chair Julie Alcon; Assistant Director of Civil Works Ada Benavides; and Programmer Joseph Bittner.*

Engineers and all other organizational levels at briefings involving regional issues,” Alcon said. “It serves as review manager for SPD documents and coordinates reviews with Office of Water Project Review, as well as being the SPD advocate for problem solving.”

Alcon said most of her work involved answering Congressional inquiries, coordinating the review and approval of planning documents, meeting with project sponsors and stakeholders regarding project issues and concerns and partaking in vertical team meetings with HQ, SPD and the SPD districts. She responded to a variety of questions from Corps leadership and Congress on SPD projects.

“This experience made me realize that headquarters has a great team of talented individuals who are very busy supporting the divisions and districts,” Alcon said. “There should be more opportunities to volunteer as a planner or project manager for the temporary Endowed Chair position in the future. Jodi Clifford, chief of Environmental Resources Branch in Los Angeles District, is the current Endowed Chair until April. It is a great opportunity to learn how headquarters engages in project review and approval and policy development.”

## Project Manager Returns From Kosovo Deployment

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

While the Middle East and Central Asia dominate national discussion about the military, the U.S. military still has a presence in Eastern Europe, particularly in the Balkans, including in Kosovo.

New Mexico native Michael Martinez, a project manager in civil works, has experienced all three regions, most recently Kosovo. In 2004, he deployed to Iraq with the Corps. During 2005-2006 he was in Afghanistan serving with the New Mexico National Guard. From March to December 2011 he deployed to Kosovo, one of more than 400 New Mexico National Guardsmen in one of the biggest New Mexico National Guard deployments since World War II.

According to Martinez, U.S. forces are there as “third responders.” By this, he explained that the Kosovo government is the primary authority. They are backed up by NATO, international courts and the European Union. The U.S. forces support the local government and the Europeans. The international military presence is known as KFOR (Kosovo Force) and led by NATO.

Martinez said the U.S. forces had three main areas of mission focus: freedom of movement within Kosovo; Kosovo installations, that is, working to support the development and credibility of civilian institutions, such as

the judicial and penal system and the electoral process; and working toward a safe and secure environment.

The New Mexico National Guard was the command group for the forces during Martinez’s tour of duty. In addition to New Mexico’s National Guard, there were National Guard units and Reservists from 22 states and 12 NATO nations that contributed troops.

Martinez’s primary duty while deployed was evaluating taskings for people and resources to ensure the best people and right resources were where they were needed. Part of the job involved interacting with troops from the other NATO countries. Martinez visited several multinational camps and said that was a highlight of his deployment. He said that each nation’s troops brought their culture with them to Kosovo and he noticed this especially in their food and entertainment.

Martinez added that because the National Guard is composed of civilian soldiers, they were able to interact in unique

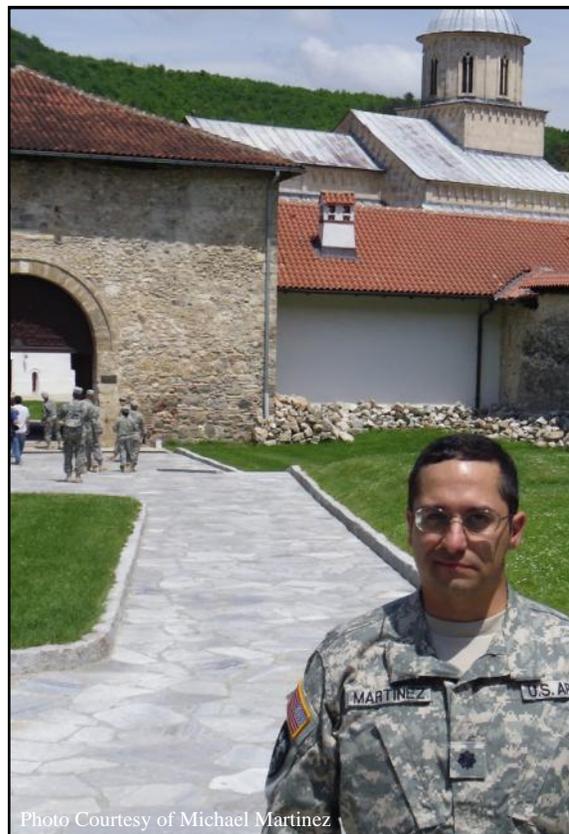


Photo Courtesy of Michael Martinez

*Project Manager Michael Martinez visits the Visoki Decani Monastery in the United Nations administered area of Kosovo.*

ways with the people outside of a military setting. He said that with his civil engineering background, he was able to share thoughts on conservation and land issues (such as logging).

KFOR has been in Kosovo since June 1999, as Kosovo faced a humanitarian crisis and civil war broke out. Ethnic tensions between the majority Albanian population, which is mainly Muslim, and the minority Serb population, which is mainly Orthodox Christian, were at their highest level. Kosovo declared independence from Serbia Feb. 17, 2008, with mixed international recognition. However, Serbia rejects Kosovo’s claim of independence.

This activity supports our Operations Plan: Actions 12 and 13 (Develop and implement the Human Capital Plan and Conduct workforce shaping to align the right people with the right positions for success).

Focus on People

# New Faces! District Welcomes New Teammate

Cindy McCord is the new project assistant at Conchas. She came from the Defense Ammunition Center of the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, Okla. She first worked for the government from 1984 to 1989 with the Office of Civilian Health and Medical Program (OCHAMPUS, now known as TRICARE) as a first level reviewer for psychiatric admissions of dependents.

Growing up as the daughter of an Air Force parent, she lived all over the world: born in Michigan, then moved to North Dakota, Okinawa, New Mexico, Germany, Idaho, Colorado, then as an adult lived in Missouri, Colorado, Virginia, Oklahoma and now New Mexico again. Having separated from the government for many years before returning in 2003, she promoted tourism on Lake Eufaula, the largest manmade lake in Oklahoma, drove a big rig cross country, owned her own donut and convenience store businesses, was a lab technician in an Italian porcelain tile factory, inspected pipe casing, was a calibration technician, and she worked at other interesting jobs



between her government service.

This move has put her closer to her daughter and two nieces in Denver, and she is a new grandmother. This part of the country also gives her the opportunity to get back to the outdoors, fishing, hunting, hiking and renewing old friendships in Colorado.

Having worked for five agencies, she said she is excited by the new challenge of working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She really enjoys learning new things.

## Deployed Project Engineer Touted for Her Contributions to ISAF

Ulrike Krueger was recognized for her contributions to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission at an International Women's Day Commemoration at the Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan March 8.

Krueger works in the Corps' Helmand province area office and was unable to attend the event. This is her second deployment to Afghanistan with the Corps. When not deployed, she is a project

engineer in the District's El Paso Resident Office.

Krueger's ceremony citation said she is a multitasker who thrives in a deployed environment and with difficult assignments. She is a self-starter field engineer dedicated to maintaining quality assurance oversight and continuously searching for ways to improve processes.

Krueger is a trained combat life saver and driver.

She received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, 2010; USACE National Hard Hat of the year, 2007; and the Global War on Terror medal, 2010.

"I'm proud of Ulrike Krueger's accomplishments," said District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams.



## **Important Info for Small Business**

The Small Business page of the District's Intranet site is where employees can find a database of current 8(a) SDB contractors providing construction, engineering and environmental services. These are 8(a)s who have marketed with our District for these services and some of them have already performed work. Included are the expiration dates of their 8(a) status.

There is also information on the District's Small Business Program and training on the different set asides available, such as HUBZone, 8(a), SDV and WOSB. It is full of information on bundling and consolidation of requirements, market research, SBA involvement, etc. Find the information here: <https://intranet.usace.army.mil/spd/spa/Pages/SB.aspx>

## **Corps Has New Senior NCO**

Karl J. Groninger is newly selected as the Corps' Command Sergeant Major; he is the 11th person to serve in that capacity. He will be the Senior Noncommissioned Officer for the Command and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of Engineers.

He currently serves as the FEST-M commander's

personal adviser on all enlisted and civilian related matters, particularly in the areas affecting training and quality of life.

His previous assignments are extensive and include the Directorate of Public Works Sgt. Maj. for U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hood, Texas; Command Sgt. Maj. for the 92nd Engineer Battalion in Fort Stewart, Ga.; and Command Sgt. Maj. for U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Most recently he



**Command Sgt. Maj. Groninger**

was the Command Sgt. Maj. for Joint Task Force Bravo in Soto Cano, Honduras.

## **Finance Corner**



**RECEIVING REPORTS AND INVOICES:** A receiving report (RR) is written evidence that indicates government acceptance of supplies delivered or service satisfactorily performed. Once goods are received, an RR should be created immediately, no need to wait for an invoice. Sometimes, an invoice goes straight to the Finance Center in Millington (UFC). Contact RM to see if UFC has received the invoice, because when they do the clock starts ticking for the 14-day or 30-day term to pay.

After creating the RR, print it out, circle the amounts on the RR, and, if you have the invoice, in red ink, then scan both to email and send to [CEFC-L4invoices@usace.army.mil](mailto:CEFC-L4invoices@usace.army.mil).

Only record valid transactions based on documented vendor invoices, receiving reports, or other evidence of work progress.

A potential violation of the Antideficiency Act may exist if the amount of payables exceeds the total availability of funds.

If you receive an invoice here, it should be date stamped and forwarded to UFC. This will let them know when it arrived. Contact the RM Office with questions at extension 3243.