RIPRAP

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District

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Engineering Technician Richard Banker captures the sun rising during a morning visit to the Corps' Cochiti Lake project.



US Army Corps of Engineers ®

Albuquerque District

Volume 24, Issue 11 November 2012

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District Engineer, Lt. Col. Antoinette Gant

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District Far Exceeds Small Business Goals in Fiscal Year 2012

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

Fiscal Year 2012 was a banner year for the Albuquerque District, as the District exceeded its goals for contracts to small businesses in several categories. Nearly 70 percent (\$235.6 million) of the total obligated prime contracts here went to small businesses – the highest amount for the District to date, far surpassing the goal of 41 percent. This fiscal year percentage was also the highest in the South Pacific Division, and it squarely positioned Albuquerque in the top 10 of small business contractors in the Corps.

The District obligated \$31 million (9.19 percent) for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) – exceeding the goal of 3 percent. Again, the District was among the top 10 districts across the Corps in both percentage and dollars obligated for SDVOSB.

The District was also highest in the Division for woman-owned small businesses, exceeding the 10 percent goal by obligating 15.2 percent (\$51.4 million). In the 8(a) certified small disadvantaged businesses category, 486 actions were awarded totaling \$64.1 million (18.9 percent).

Other highlights of the year for Albuquerque included receiving an "Outstanding Rating" from the Small Business Administration on the Surveillance Review of the District's Small Business Program, which is managed by Deputy for Small Business Programs Daniel Curado. The District partnered with Small Business specialists from Kirtland Air Force Base and the Department of Energy to plan, organize and execute quarterly small business and vendor outreach days. And,



Fiscal year 2012 began with Deputy for Small Business Programs Daniel Curado's selection as the Corps' Small Business Specialist of the Year 2011 (shown with the award and Maj. Gen. Bo Temple) at the national Society of American Military Engineers Small Business Conference Nov. 30, 2011.

as part of South Pacific Division's regional small business outreach efforts, all four districts (Albuquerque, Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Francisco) planned and executed an annual small business conference (the 11th annual), which was held in Sparks, Nev., in April 2012.

Nationally, the Corps awarded \$7.26 billion to small businesses in fiscal year 2012, accounting for 33 percent of the Army's \$21 billion total small business obligations. In comparison with other federal contracting activities that obligated more than \$5 billion, the Corps had the highest percentage of dollars awarded to Small, Small Disadvantaged, Women-Owned Small, Service-Disabled Veteran Small, and HubZone Businesses.

Volunteers Improve Lands Managed by the Corps

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

Volunteers arrived at the Albuquerque District's lake and dam locations to help with improvement projects as part of National Public Lands Day (NPLD) Sept. 29.

At the District's John Martin Reservoir in Colorado, volunteers helped clear habitat for two endangered bird species, the federally threatened Piping Plover and the federally endangered Interior Least Tern. The birds nest on the ground, looking for areas of shoreline with little or no vegetation, so volunteers helped to prepare optimal nesting habitat for the 2013 breeding season by removing invasive weeds and restoring open beach habitat.

Volunteers at Abiquiu and Cochiti lakes planted native plants, worked on trail maintenance and conducted shoreline cleanup.

The Conchas project held their NPLD event one week prior on Sept. 22, and employees from the Santa Rosa project assisted the effort there by helping to remove trash, debris and more than 500 tires from the shoreline.

"For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NPLD is an opportunity to recognize the importance of the lands the Corps' manages for public use and trust," said District Commander Lt. Col. Antoinette Gant. "In addition to the time and energy volunteers put into making the land better, NPLD is about introducing young people and adults to the opportunities public lands offer for them to be active and to give back to their communities."

As the nation's largest one-day volunteer event in support of public lands, NPLD activities took place at more than 2,000 sites in all 50 states and the District of Columbia with a wide array of activities. The efforts of those who volunteered that one day equaled more than \$15 million in improvements.



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Volunteers Deborah West and her granddaughter Kyra
Bierbaum pulled weeds and sunflowers on the south shore
of John Martin Reservoir to help promote critical nesting
habitat for the Piping Plover and Interior Least Tern.



Volunteer Adrianne Bonham helps plant desert vegetation to improve landscaping at Cochiti.

This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 5 (Develop collaborative approaches to address watershed-based, multi-stakeholder and multi-benefit water challenges).

District Happenings

District, ESCAFCA Sign Partnership Agreement

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District and the Eastern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority (ESCAFCA) signed an agreement Oct. 2 to partner on a geotechnical, hydrological, hydraulic, economic and environmental study of the existing spoil bank levees along the east side of the Rio Grande near the Town of Bernalillo, N.M.

The resulting report will provide a detailed analysis of the existing spoil bank levees and the flood plain and provide a determination of a recommended plan for levee improvements.

"The Corps and ESCAFCA are taking a phased approach to address the flood management issues faced by the citizens living in and around the Town of Bernalillo," said Project Manager Michael Martinez. "The initial study phase will provide a detailed analysis of the existing spoil bank levees and perform hydraulic flood model runs to compare against the FEMA 2008 flood maps."

According to Martinez, the resulting information from this phase will be rolled into the next phase, which will provide a more in-depth evaluation of the flood plain and develop a recommended plan with an evaluation of environmental impacts and preparation of an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. It will also include development of a detailed construction cost

estimate, preliminary design documents and preparation of real estate mapping identifying any acquisitions needed for construction.

Public meetings will take place throughout the study.

"With the completion of the



District Commander Lt. Col. Antoinette Gant and ESCAFCA Chairman Sal Reyes sign an agreement to study spoil bank levees along the east side of the Rio Grande near the Town of Bernalillo, N.M.

second phase, the Corps and ESCAFCA will team up with other stakeholders in the region to pursue the design and construction of a flood risk management project," he said. To learn more, call Martinez at 505-343-6262.





"USACE does a good job of maintenance, but not a good job of maintenance management." This was the conclusion of Jacobs Engineering, an independent contractor who was hired in 2011 to complete an assessment of the Corps' Facility Equipment Maintenance (FEM) National Utilization Plan. According to best practices cited by Jacobs, an organization should be spending 4.8 percent of its budget on maintenance. Right now, the Corps spends about 0.2 percent.

As a result of the assessment, Michael Ensch, chief of operations, Directorate of Civil Works, Headquarters, issued a national memorandum concerning the development of a maintenance management strategy. The memorandum detailed the creation of eight pilot studies, one for each of the Corps' eight divisions, to be completed by November 2012.

According to Bob Leitch, Headquarters program manager for Maintenance Management, the purposes of the pilot studies are to: 1) have a clear, agency wide initiative to prioritize, record and report asset program maintenance; 2) establish common maintenance guidelines that can be applied to all business lines, divisions and geographies, and 3) create a maintenance management implementation plan for all users with the Corps that is adaptable and flexible to the unique requirements and circumstances present across the Corps.

Cochiti Dam, along with all other Corps' dams throughout the country, went through a screening and prioritization process in order to determine whether its infrastructure was determined to be critical. Critical infrastructure is defined as systems and assets so vital to the

United States that the incapacity or destruction of the system and its assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of these matters (the definition is in the PATRIOT Act of



District Operations Asset Manager Felton Prosper

2001). Of the dams in South Pacific Division, 10 were determined to have severe detrimental effects if they failed, and Cochiti was ranked eighth out of the 10. Therefore, Albuquerque District nominated Cochiti for a pilot study, and it was selected.

"Because it was selected as the Division pilot study site, the lessons learned will enable the District and the rest of South Pacific Division to 'maximize' the effective use of each maintenance dollar to improve or sustain value to the district, region, and eventually the nation," said Operations Asset Manager Felton Prosper.

During the week of October 15-19, representatives from Jacobs Engineering, Headquarters, Division, Walla Walla District, Cochiti staff, and the District's Programs and Asset Management Branch came together for the study. They identified and prioritized Cochiti's assets in two different areas: flood risk management (the dam and all associated assets) and recreation (the campground, boat launch and other associated assets).

—Continued on next page

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

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The pilot study focused on real property accountability and maintenance, specifically flood risk management property, like the dam and the campground. Furthermore, the District's use and management of the FEM tracking system was under scrutiny.

"Since deploying FEM in April 2010, the Albuquerque District has taken an aggressive approach to tracking maintenance for its aging infrastructure by hiring an Operations Asset Manager and three FEM technicians to properly track maintenance, labor and conduct life cycle management for all nine dams," Prosper said.

As Operations Asset Manager, it is Prosper's responsibility to make sure the District is in compliance for all property, and property is divided into two main categories: real and personal. Real property includes anything that is fixed and cannot move. This includes all of the dams and adjacent structures and any other buildings with four or more walls and a roof. Personal property is identified as anything that is expendable or pilferable, such as equipment, tools and electrical devices.

"As a first step, all maintenance data was transferred from an older maintenance software database, DYNASTAR, into FEMS, a state-of-the-art system," he said. "When all of the data was transferred, the District met Phase I of the FEM National Utilization Plan."

The three FEM Technicians selected to serve as the primary schedulers and estimators for all real and personal property are: Ralph Arias, who is responsible for Santa Rosa, Two Rivers and Conchas Dams; Christina Serrano, responsible for Abiquiu, Cochiti, Jemez and Galisteo Dams; and Bernadine Cisneros, who is responsible for John Martin and Trinidad Dams.

The pilot study made it clear that, as the Corps moves forward with implementation of



Bernadine Cisneros is one of the District's three Facility Equipment Maintenance (FEM) technicians. She reviews work orders for John Martin and Trinidad Dams in Colorado, and she inputs the orders into the FEM system.

Maintenance Management, it must adhere to the following expectations and challenges: 1) know your inventory and be able to articulate it; 2) know the condition of each component and incorporate the consequences of failure to the extent possible, 3) know what resources are required for proper maintenance; 4) know and understand the availability of resources (labor and costs) available for maintenance; and 5) manage the gap between what you have and what you need.

Albuquerque was the sixth pilot study to be conducted, and there will be two more in November. Once the final two are completed, the Corps will revise its draft Maintenance Management Improvement Plan (MMIP) and issue an Operation Order to implement the final MMIP across the Corps.

"Even though we have limited funding, we need to move forward with assessing and maintaining our aging infrastructure," Prosper said. "FEM is an excellent tool for helping us do that, along with communication among the field sites at the dams, Programs and Asset Management Branch, Resource Management, Real Estate, Logistics and Internal Review. It's truly a team effort!"

Albuquerque Team "Reaches Back" to Afghanistan

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

Besides continuing to send our employees to assist "in country," Albuquerque District is now supporting operations in Afghanistan at home by providing design support for four Afghanistan National Army construction projects. This work is called "reach back."

Two of the District's branch chiefs, Art Maestas and Ben Alanis, recognized that the employees here had the expertise and capability to respond to requests for support from Afghanistan North District, referred to as "TAN," who was tasked with completing several fast-track construction

projects. The branch chiefs knew they could quickly step forward to help since several of Albuquerque District's employees had deployed to Afghanistan previously and were familiar with the construction requirements there. Maestas, himself, has deployed more than once.

The District took responsibility for four projects, each with multiple facilities: Camp Scorpion Special Operation Force Training Facility, Camp Commando Phase 3, Armor Branch School, and Infantry Branch School. All of these facilities will help enhance training operations.

Program Manager Tom

Bueno quickly organized a technical team of employees with experience in design, specifications, budgeting, and contracting. He also brought the Kansas City District training team to Albuquerque for a day to get the team here up to speed. Bueno knew the first step was to have the technical team members review the scope of requirements to start developing the contracting document proposals to award the projects.

"From the start, the team's professionalism was clearly evident, and their firm commitment to the task at hand was a good indication of

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Albuquerque's reach back team consists of: (back row) Paul Rebarchik, Lance Faerber, James Vigil (middle row) Ben Alanis, Art Maestas, Bruce Jordan, Bill Loveland, Jim Marshall, Chris Velasquez (front row) Regina Schowalter, Kathy Mayer, Karen Irving, Francesca Thomas, and Diana Keeran. Not pictured: Charles Agee, Richard Banker, Steve Buckel, Tom Bueno, Corina Chavez, Bryan Estvanko, Paul Gendron, Tim Kreitinger, Matthias Mayerhofer, Sonia Murdock, Stephanie Padilla, Brian Sanchez, and Erica Talley. **(Tim Kreitinger co-wrote this story).

District Happenings

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success for the projects," Bueno said.

The technical team quickly reviewed the project requirements and interposed them in the specifications.

The two major components reviewed were the site layouts and the architectural designs. General engineering members James Vigil, Corina Chavez and Chris Velasquez started on site layouts, while Architect Jim Marshall selected the standard designs and inputted the specifications for new designs and renovations. Mechanical Engineer Bill Loveland, Electrical Engineer Dwayne Agee and Structural **Engineer Steve Buckel** incorporated input from their respective sections. These members meet on a weekly basis, communicating with people at TAN on changes and corrections to the request for proposals.

Meanwhile, Bruce Jordan, along with Maestas and Alanis, completed an internal technical review of the request for proposals. Jordan is another employee who served in Afghanistan.

The District was fortunate to have Lance Faerber and Paul Rebarchik coordinate drawings and file transfers, and Faerber helped establish a relationship with TAN's engineering section through connections he made during a previous deployment.

Once the design aspects were finished, cost estimations were completed by Matthias Mayerhofer, with Sonia Murdock's assistance, and these estimations were crucial for advertising. Mayerhofer, another employee who had deployed previously, understood the cost estimating particulars for Afghanistan projects, and this knowledge proved vital.

Compiling the requirements for unfamiliar and changing mandates was no small task for the specifications team of Paul Gendron, Brian Sanchez, Stephanie Padilla, Bryan Estvanko and Richard Banker. They took all the team's technical inputs passed on from the Transatlantic Division in Winchester, Virginia, and resourcefully put together request for proposals for contracting.

Four contract specialists:
Kathy Mayer, Karin Irving,
Francesca Thomas, and Diana
Keeran worked with the
contract document preparation.
They were assisted by Erica
Talley, another employee who
just returned from Afghanistan.

In the background, Attorney Regina Schowalter, yet another employee who has deployed to Afghanistan, worked systematically to complete the legal review to ensure that contracting actions went smoothly.

As the District moves to the next step, Source Selection Boards, the projects are ever closer to construction.

The epitome of a team effort,

all of the employees had to establish partnerships and communicate well with each other to reach goals. Many have expressed satisfaction when seeing project milestones completed, and their work was often validated during conference calls each week with Transatlantic Division, which were necessary to thoroughly coordinate efforts.

On a recent conference call, TAN District Commander Colonel Alfred Pantano, said he is truly thankful for the reach back support provided by districts like Albuquerque to help accomplish the Corps' mission in Afghanistan.

Since 2002, the Corps has supported national efforts in Afghanistan. The Corps has two districts in the country. Afghanistan Engineer District-North is located in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, and, in 2009, with an increasing in-theater engineering mission to provide facilities for more than 30,000 U.S. and Coalition troops, the Corps stood up Afghanistan Engineer District-South in Kandahar. Together, they play a vital role in establishing a secure and stable environment, mostly by building police stations, army bases, roads, and other infrastructure projects, plus facilities for U.S. and Coalition forces.

Staff Conducts 'Operation Turtle Eviction' at Conchas

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

The Corps' Conchas project will be busy with activity during the next few months, as maintenance work is performed on the stilling basin. It has been 40 years since the basin has been cleaned and inspected.

In preparation for the work, the Corps awarded a contract to empty the stilling basin pool and remove the silt at the base of the dam. Once that is complete, Corps personnel will inspect the concrete surfaces, seals, conduit and gate to make any needed repairs. However, before the de-watering takes place,

Photo by Rhea Jackson

Ranger Michael Vollmer and Maintenance Worker Carl Latham endured mosquitoes and leeches while setting the turtle traps.



This snapping turtle was caught on the first day that staff at Conchas Dam tried to trap and relocate turtles for upcoming maintenance work on the stilling basin.

rangers and maintenance personnel wanted to make a concerted effort to trap and relocate any amphibious residents living in the basin.

Since Oct. 1, Natural Resource Specialist Ranger Michael Vollmer and Maintenance Worker Jason Latham have set traps to humanely capture turtles with the intent of releasing them away from the construction site.

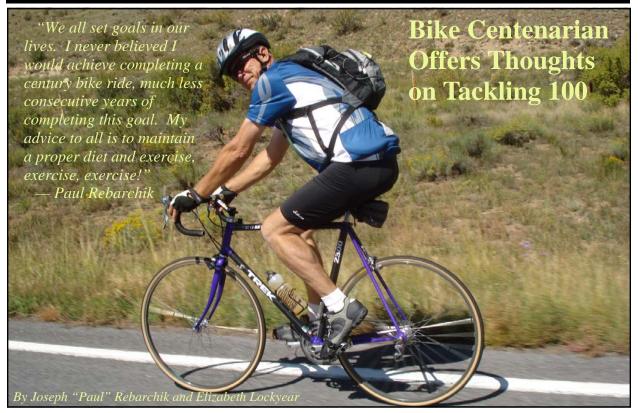
Armed with five N.M. Game and Fish traps, which they strategically placed in shallow water adjacent to the shoreline, the rangers began 'Operation Turtle Eviction.'

"Each of the traps are baited with a can of sardines; however, no preference for flavor has been noticed," Vollmer said. "The most common species we've caught is the Red-Eared Slider, a non-native species, and they have ranged in size from a couple of inches to a foot, or more, in diameter."

Vollmer said they have been surprised by the size and species of some of the other turtles, such as a snapping turtle, another non-native species, trapped the first day.

"The first snapping turtle measured 12 inches across and 24 inches long with an approximate weight of 15 lbs.," he said.

Between Oct. 1 and Oct. 15, the duo felt satisfaction in catching and releasing 10 turtles.



Paul Rebarchik completed the 100-mile Enchanted Circle Century Tour bike race Sept. 9 in 8 hours, 19 minutes. The annual race started in Red River, N.M., and went through Questa, Taos, Angel Fire, Black Lake, Eagle Nest, Bobcat Pass and back to Red River.

One week later, Sept. 16, Rebarchik completed the Tour of the Rio Grande Valley, also a 100-mile or century race, in 6 hours, 40 minutes. Organizers said the race "takes riders on scenic flat roads through the Rio Grande Valley."

During an interview, Rebarchik shared some thoughts about his cycling and some tips he's learned along the way.

"I began my cycling career in the late 1980s, with a Schwinn 10-speed. I rode about a month and then competed in the Enchanted Circle Century Tour with about 60 total training miles. I don't recommend this as the way to begin a cycling career, and all I can say is that I completed my first century ride and could barely walk the next day."

He compared conditioning for long bike tours to riding a horse. "The longer you're in the saddle, the more miles you can endure. If you can ride 10 miles, you could probably ride 20 miles a week later, and continue to increase at a comfortable pace until goal." However, he added that "century bike rides take just about every ounce of energy you have, and don't be surprised if you feel sore and depressed afterward."

Rebarchik stressed that conditioning and diet play an important role in achieving these distances. He said that a type 2 diabetes diagnosis in

2006 reinforced his need to continue an active lifestyle.

He has four types of bikes: road, hybrid, mountain, and recumbent. Each works different areas of the body and is used for different riding events and surfaces.

Being a safe rider is not a passive activity. "I have been commuting to work and home fairly consistently since the 1980s, often taking different routes home. One must ride on the defensive all the time when cycling and always anticipate the fact that motorists cannot see you."

Not counting his time in Germany, Rebarchik said that he's managed to complete at least one century ride a year and estimates he's completed approximately 30 in all. The longest was 150 miles over two days in the Tour de Taos.

Family Readiness Network Expands Help

In conjunction with National Safety Month, the District's Family Readiness Network (FRN) coordinators were in the main lobby Sept. 26 to hand out literature and explain the program, which aims to undertake initiatives that benefit the entire "District Family."

"Lt. Col. Gant expressed her desire to see the FRN reach beyond the care being given to deployed employees and their families," said Crystalin Medrano, FRN coordinator. "Under her command, FRN will now support all District family needs, and, if one of our team members is facing a challenge, the FRN will attempt to help and lighten the burden."

As a result of FRN's outreach, the group found volunteers who were willing to sponsor a care package to send to a team member overseas. FRN provided \$10 to each volunteer, and the volunteer used the money to purchase care package goodies that were shipped Oct. 15.

"Thank you to those who helped make this happen," Medrano said. "Although FRN is not equipped to be all things to all people, we do have the resources to steer individuals in a helpful direction, and all of our

efforts make the day brighter for recipients."

The FRN coordinators ask to be told if there





is a birth, death, or illness of a team member, or if someone is in need. — Story by Jeannette Alderete, Crystalin Medrano, and Valerie Silva.



It's that time of the year again when we begin to prepare for the upcoming holidays and the end of another year. Although we enjoy the ability to make such plans, there are others in our communities who are less fortunate. And with this in mind, I encourage everyone to consider the many local and national charities that would greatly benefit from donations. This year's theme is "give a little...HELP A LOT."

The District began its Combined Federal Campaign Oct. 15. I encourage everyone to participate this year.

CFC Charity booklets and pledge forms can be obtained from the CFC Key Workers, or go directly to the user friendly website and pledge online: www.newmexicocfc.org

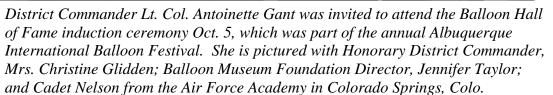
New Crop of Leaders Begin District Program

The employees selected for the District's fiscal year 2013 Leadership Development Program met for a team-building exercise on the high ropes course at University of New Mexico Oct. 16. Congratulations to the eleven future leaders: Mark Doles, Bryan Estvanko, Karen Irving, Jesse Kalachman, Christopher Lannutti, Michelle Mann, Corinne O'Hara, Ariane Pinson, Luis Pulido, Denise Saiz, and Matthew Tompkins.



oon Hall of Fame Induction





News Briefs—News Briefs—News Briefs



Did you know?

Can a president serve more than two terms if they are not consecutive? For example, could former President Bill Clinton run for president again after 2000?

The answer is, No. The 22nd Amendment, enacted after Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president for the fourth time (all prior to 1951), imposes a two-term limit on presidential candidates and was established to formalize a tradition George Washington started by refusing to run for a third term in 1796.

Quality Management System TRIVIA

It is time again for QMS Trivia, but first I would like to recognize October's winners for answering all five QMS questions correctly. The winners were Blaine Kemsley and Marcy Leavitt. 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 are November's Questions:

- 1) What is the Human Resource QMS process number for new employee on-boarding?
- 2) What are the three levels of QMS processes?
- 3) What is the QMS methodology?
- 4) What is the name of the Enterprise Standard 11010?
- 5) What QMS process gives the Standard Process Template?

Finance Corner



It's almost time again for the annual Managers' Internal Control Program (MICP).

<u>Guidance</u>: AR 11-2 and new FY13 OPORD (awaiting release) <u>Purpose</u>: To identify and manage risks in the areas of financial reporting, financial systems, fund control and non-financial operations via the use of routine analysis and checks that ensure the appropriate internal controls are in place and operating properly to mitigate those risks.

<u>Who</u>: Designated functional areas at both local and national levels.

<u>How</u>: Key controls/checklists completed January-March 2012. <u>Requirements</u>: Anyone who completes a key control or checklist is required to complete MICP training every 2 years. The training will be provided prior to tasking in January.

<u>Outcome</u>: An Annual Statement of Assurance signed by the commander providing and regarding the current state of the Albuquerque District's MICP.

<u>Primary Internal Control Administrator</u>: Greg Allen <u>Alternate Internal Control Administrator</u>: Debra Gallegos