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of Engineers ®

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News Briefs

Lt. Col. Jason Williams

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Corps and Partners Celebrate Bosque Restoration Project

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

The Corps of Engineers and six other agency partners gathered at Albuquerque's Tingley Beach Nov. 18 to conduct a groundbreaking ceremony in celebration of the beginning of the construction phase of habitat restoration work planned for several areas along the Middle Rio Grande.

The main purpose for the project is to restore habitat for multiple species of fish and wildlife including the Rio Grande silvery minnow and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, two of New Mexico's endangered species. Additionally, the project will develop several recreational features including new trails and signs, emergency watercraft access and canoe launching points, parking improvements, pedestrian benches, wildlife blinds and river overlooks.

The project was designed by the Corps, in concert with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and Sandia Pueblo, as well as with the help of the City of Albuquerque, Open Space Division; Office of the State Engineer; Village of Corrales; and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Approximately 916 acres of native Bosque (riparian cottonwood forest) will be restored along a 26-mile stretch of the Middle Rio Grande

between Isleta Pueblo and the northern border of Sandia Pueblo.

Former New Mexico Sen. Pete Domenici, a passionate supporter of restoration efforts in the Bosque, attended the ceremony and strongly praised the intended benefits of the project.

Remarks were also made by Matthew Zidovsky, Office of Rep. Martin Heinrich; Bill Woldman, Office of Sen. Tom Udall; Patricia Dominguez, Office of Sen. Jeff Bingaman; Grace Haggerty, Interstate Stream Commission; Sayre Gerhart, Mayor Pro Tem, Village of Corrales; Doug Lutz, Mayor's Office, City of Albuquerque; Vice-Chair Eugene Abeita, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District; Governor Malcolm Montoya, Pueblo of Sandia; and Lt. Col. Jason Williams, Corps' Albuquerque District Commander.

Following the speaker portion of the ceremony, attendees were invited to walk through the Bosque to an area of wetlands where the actual groundbreaking took place.

The \$13.1 million, 3-year contract for the first phase of construction was awarded to AJAC Enterprises, Inc., an Albuquerque-based contractor. For more photos of the event, see next page.

Officials from the Corps and partner agencies, along with Sen. Pete Domenici (red shirt), conducted a groundbreaking ceremony in honor of the start of construction on restoration work along the Middle Rio Grande.

at 505-342-3171 or send email to: kristen.skopeck@ Photo by Ronnie Schelby usace.army.mil

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

This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 4 (Execute the regional Civil Works Program and expand planning processes towards integrated and sustainable water resource projects).

District Happenings





Top: Albuquerque District employees who played a role in the restoration project coming to fruition include (L to R): Biologist Ondrea Hummel, Project Manager Alicia Austin Johnson, Collaborative Program Manager Susan Bittick (holding Annie Johnson), GIS Specialist John Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist Ronnie Schelby, Biologist Michael Porter, Interns Hannah Wolfman and Robert Grimes, Project Manager Lynette Giesen, Project Management



Assistant Ellen Rule and Biologist Dana Price. Far Left: Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams and Deputy District Engineer John D'Antonio hold the city's proclamation for the restoration project. Left: Sen. Pete Domenici and Project Manager Alicia Austin Johnson observe the area of the Bosque where the ground breaking was held and discuss the restorative changes for the future.

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Employees Gather to Thank, Remember Veterans

District employees gathered together Nov. 10 at the District Office to observe an all-services JROTC color guard conduct a ceremony recognizing veterans for their service to the Nation. An American flag that was flown over Kabul, Afghanistan, in commemoration of 9/11, was raised and lowered at half-staff, and a bugler played "Reveille" and "Taps."

Deputy Commander Maj. Richard Collins remarked, "the Corps of Engineers' Soldiers and Civilians have had a proud role in supporting U.S. and Coalition forces, building training facilities and headquarters, barracks and military housing and other vital works to support our security, economy and quality of life."



The ceremony was organized by Chief of Security Master Sgt. Bernie Lujan (top left) and conducted by Deputy Commander Maj. Richard Collins (bottom right). JROTC cadets represented all military services.



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

District Happenings

Log Boom to Help Clear Lake of Debris

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

In response to the large amount of debris that was flowing into the Corps' Cochiti Lake from the aftermath of the Las Conchas Fire, the District decided to install 50, 20-foot-long log booms on Nov. 17 to help collect future debris.

The booms are made of foamfilled, 8-inch diameter PVC pipe and are connected by



The Corps installed 50, 20-foot-long log booms in the canyon portion of Cochiti Lake, a half mile upstream of the Tetilla boat ramp, to catch debris.

steel cables that run the length of each log and are then connected to anchor bolts on each bank. In addition, two anchors are set within the lake. A 3-foot skirt of galvanized chain link fabric is suspended beneath each log to catch submerged debris.

The booms have been placed across the canyon portion of the lake, approximately half of a mile upstream of the Tetilla boat ramp.

"The log boom will not affect swimming, but it will affect boating," said civil engineer Lev Bogle of the Maintenance Engineering Unit in the Operations Technical Support Section. "I believe signs will eventually be placed at locations where boaters put into the river, but portaging is possible around the right side of the log boom." During periods when no debris is expected to wash into the river, the middle section of the log boom can be removed to provide 200-footwide passage for boats.

According to Bogle, it is anticipated that the log boom will be in use for several years, as long as substantial amounts of debris continue to wash down from burned areas. He said the log boom will be removed annually before the lake freezes over and then re-installed before spring run-off.

"It will be inspected regularly by the Cochiti Lake staff, and debris will be removed as it accumulates," he said.

Bogle also said the Corps is working to inform boating organizations of the location and purpose of the log boom.

District Happenings



Colonel David Piech, Commander, 27th Special Operations Mission Support Group, is joined by (L to R) squadron mascot "Chappy;" Contractor RMA's Executive Vice President Steve Mohammed; RMA's Sr. Superintendent Jim Wilson; District Project Manager Fabian Lopez Jr.; Family Services Flight Chief Denise VanDerwarker; and students Kiyah Morris and Dalton McDonald.

Child Development Center Opens at Cannon

By John Moreno, chief, Engineering and Construction Division

I had the pleasure of representing District leadership at a ribbon cutting for a Child Development Center at Cannon Air Force Base, near Clovis, N.M., Nov. 21.

It was a cold, blustery day, so the comments were kept short, and I didn't have the opportunity to publicly thank the project team, so this article intends to do just that.

Our District owes a special thanks to our customer, the 27th Services Support Squadron and their representatives. Denise VanDerwarker and Kathy Morgan. Their guidance and support to the design and construction team was invaluable.

Our appreciation also goes to the 27th Civil Engineer Squadron's Project Manager, Amanda Willoughby, who served as a valuable liaison for all the customer's interests.

to Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment Project Manager Jim Guerrero, who provided guidance, funding and programmatic support.

A special thank you also needs to go to the District's Project Manager, Tom Bueno, who provided key leadership throughout the project and maintained focus on the many challenges this job endured.

Bueno was aided by the District's Resident Engineer and Administrative Contracting Officer at Cannon, Donna Russell, and by Project Engineer Fabien Lopez Jr., and Quality Assurance Representative Richard Martinez. These

individuals have lived this project for two years and should be proud of the fine product delivered.

Last but not least, the Corps Additionally, a special thanks must recognize the designbuild contractor, RMA Land Construction. Inc. With the help of RMA's designer of record, AECOM, and a large team of subcontractors and suppliers, the children at Cannon can now enjoy a highquality facility. Key personnel from RMA who need to be recognized include Jim Wilson, Lysander Little and Diane Detloss.

> I was proud to celebrate the ribbon cutting of this facility and to see the many young children enrolled in its first month of service. I know it will provide many years of service to the Cannon Air Force Base community.

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

District Happenings

Munitions Removal Fieldwork Completed with a Bang

By Project Manager Sonny Franks

Albuquerque District's contractor, Native American Environmental, LLC., and individuals from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., completed several months of fieldwork locating, excavating, characterizing and identifying unexploded ordnance, munitions debris and range-related debris at the former Badlands Bombing Range on Oct. 3.

The work was conducted across 2,486 acres of land and culminated with the detonation of four spent munitions.

The District and the South Pacific Division's Range Support Center have been managing and executing contracts at this property since November 2009 for the purpose of cleaning up any remaining military munitions and completing a decision document supporting the



The final four spent munitions were detonated at the former Badlands Bombing Range, S.D., as part of a cleanup process.

suitability of transferring the property to a new owner.

The goal is to transfer this property from Ellsworth AFB, to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and, ultimately, to the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

In a story written for the Ellsworth base paper, Airman

Kate Walker wrote, "The spent munitions were the last of more than 13,700 pounds of known munitions fragments excavated from the World War II era range, which was first used as a training ground for bomber pilots in 1942."



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District Happenings



Visitors to New Mexico's Historic Conchas Dam can step back in history and enjoy a stay in one of four duplex cottages built by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers during the Great Depression and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The duplexes were built from material recycled from Conchas City, which was developed on the remote eastern plains of New Mexico because workers building the dam were faced with a lack of housing convenient to the site.

After Conchas Dam was completed the town was dismantled, and the CCC used the material to create the Army Corps' offices, workshops and the duplexes at the dam. Until 1999, the duplexes served as housing for Corps of Engineers employees stationed at the dam.

Corps employee Daniel "Joe" Martinez said living in one of the cottages for 10 years was a great experience for him and his family. He remembers being able to leave his home and be at work in minutes. "We took good care of them and it was one big happy family living here then," Martinez said of the six to eight families that lived there at the time. They moved when the Corps turned the buildings over to a private concessionaire for management and for cost saving purposes.

Each 1,100 square foot duplex is Spanish Pueblo Revival in adobe style and overlooks Conchas Lake. The architectural details include Ponderosa pine vigas and tongue and groove latillas in the porch and living room ceilings, a kiva fireplace fronted with a flagstone hearth, hardwood floors and white





marble window sills, which combine to enhance the duplexes' historic atmosphere.

Located in a fenced 7.23 acre park, mature elm, juniper and other trees shade the little neighborhood resting behind the Army Corps offices at the dam, and Conchas Lake is within easy walking distance. The duplexes are closed for the season. For information call: Conchas Lake Project Office, 575-868-2442.

District Happenings

Corps' Team Briefs Tribal Council Members

The District hosted members of the Santa Clara Pueblo Tribal Council Nov. 28 to review the Technical Assistance Report prepared by the Corps in response to the Pueblo's request for assistance under Public Law 84-99.

The assistance was asked for because of the increased flood hazard to the Village of Santa Clara from rain events following the Las Conchas Fire.

As a result of the briefing, the group referred the report "as approved" to the full tribal council, who approved the report and recommendations Nov. 30.

In related news, President Obama signed a disaster declaration for post-fire flood risk on Nov. 23, which may provide Santa Clara Pueblo the funds needed to execute the Corps' recommendations.



In the front row, Joe Abeyta (left) and Calvin Tafoya of the Santa Clara Pueblo's Tribal Council listen to employee briefings.

New Fort Bliss Water Tank a Sight for Sore Eyes

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

The District performed a lead based paint removal project for a highly visible water tank adjacent to a daycare facility on Fort Bliss this fall.

The Corps' contractor, Mirador Enterprises, Inc., of El Paso, Texas, completed the lead based paint abatement and was tasked with repainting and applying epoxy to the tank, as well as adding a new logo.

The pictures show the condition of the water tank before remediation and afterward. Field oversight was provided by Corps' personnel in the El Paso Resident Office.



This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 1 (Deploy field force engineer and personnel in support of full-spectrum overseas contingency operations).

Focus on People

Robert Garcia Selected as Afghanistan Engineer District South's Bulldog of the Week Nov. 27—Dec. 3

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD,

Afghanistan — Bulldogs can carry a lot of weight on their broad shoulders. Robert "Bobby" Garcia, the Mine Clearance and Site Assessment project manager, showed this bulldog trait when he carried his own and helped with covering pre- and post-award projects in the Herat Area Office, plus training of a project manager.

He was directly responsible for stewarding three stalled pre-award projects to award, facilitating two project modifications, conducting two project site visits and participating in two source selection advisory boards. His extra efforts were indispensible to the ANSF/ ANP group when they were understaffed for three weeks.

"Bobby Garcia personifies the "can do, will do" attitude of the Bulldog of the Week Award," said U.S. Air Force Col. Benjamin Wham, district commander. "He tackles each project head on, always striving to accomplish projects in support of our customers and the district. We are very proud to have him on our team."

The Corps' Afghanistan Engineer District-South provides design and construction services throughout

southern Afghanistan to support the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces-

Afghanistan. The work is carried out in Regional Commands South, Southwest and West with the



Robert "Bobby" Garcia (left), who is deployed from the Albuquerque District, was picked for the Afghanistan Engineer District-South's Bulldog of the Week. Col. Benjamin Wham (right) presents him with the award.

goal of achieving counterinsurgency effects and bolstering the Afghan Government's services to its people.

Focus on People

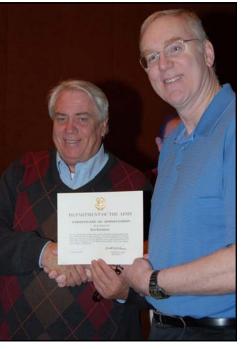
Kudos to District Teammates!



Specifications Technician Richard Banker won an honorable mention for this vibrant picture in the 2011 Army Digital Photo Contest. The photo was entered in the "digital darkroom" category.

On behalf of the public affairs staff, Kristen Skopeck, chief, accepted the 2011 Locke L. Mouton Award for Excellence in Command Information from Acting Commanding General Maj. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple on Nov. 15 in San Francisco.





(Above) At the 8th Annual Tribal Liaison Community of Practice meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, Nov. 16, Steve Boardman, chief of the Civil Project Management Branch Alaska District (right), gave Albuquerque District Tribal Liaison Dr. Ron Kneebone an Army Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts with Native American tribes affected by the Las Conchas Fire.



(Left) Formerly in logistics, Jessie Griego was selected as an Army intern in Safety. He will attend extensive training at Fort Rucker, Ala., for 15 weeks and return to the District for on-the-job training under Safety Specialists Jim Jaffe and Rick Buttz. In two years, he will be a fullfledged Occupational Safety and Health Specialist.

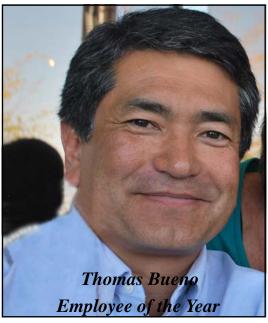
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Congrats...

Focus on People



Joseph Horvath, chief, Programs Management Branch, was selected as the District's Supervisor of the Year. His nomination said he mentors not only his own staff but others who come to talk about personal and professional concerns. He always conveys postive guidance and friendship.





District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams gives the oath to John D'Antonio Nov. 8, officially making him Deputy District Engineer / Chief, Planning Programs and Project Management Division.



Camille Trujillo, daughter of Dam Safety Manager Will Trujillo, and a senior at Georgetown Univ., is the year's all-time high goal scorer with 34 and is third all-time in scoring with 80 pts.

Thomas Bueno, program manager, Cannon Air Force Base program, was selected as the District's Employee of the Year. His nomination said he has the ability to facilitate coordination and communication between the customer, user and the Corps from both business and technical viewpoints. He is the epitome of a professional.



A hearty welcome to (back) Jesse Kalachman, Andrew Trainor, Luis Pulido, (front) Steve Brown, and Bryan Estvanko pictured at new employee orientation.

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Congrats...

Focus on People

Chief of Readiness and Contingency Operations Russ Jaramillo is now an ESF #3 Assistant Team Lead (ATL) Promotable, which is



a step between ATL and Team Leader. From 2006 to 2010, he has deployed as an ESF #3 ATL on six events. There are 40 ATL's and Russ was one of only three picked for Promotable status.



Daniel Curado received the Corps' District Small Business Specialist of the Year award for 2011, for outstanding support of the Corps' Small Business Program. The Award was presented during the National Society of American Military Engineers Small Business Conference in National Harbor, Md., on Nov 30.







District Sends Holiday Cheer to Employees Overseas

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

Crystallin Medrano (left) and Memrie Clark, members of the Corps' Family Readiness Network, are preparing to spread Christmas cheer by packing boxes to send to District employees deployed to Afghanistan. These boxes include donations from employees.

"We want our deployed employees to know that the District is thinking of them during this holiday season and wishing them a safe and happy holiday," Medrano said.



News Briefs—News Briefs—News Briefs—News Briefs

Photo Contest to Showcase OCO

A contest of photographs depicting the daily life of military deployments and overseas assignments, as captured through the camera lenses of military members, veterans and diplomats, kicked off on Veterans Day.

The contest to select the 1,000 winning photos for an exhibit, Serving Abroad ... Through Their Eyes, launched Nov. 11, and continues through Presidents Day, Feb. 20, Defense Department officials said.

Winning entries will be showcased at the Smithsonian Institution's American Art Museum, U.S. embassies around the world, the Pentagon and other prominent, international venues in 2012.

"We're looking for the most compelling photos that show the friendships, places, faces, losses and triumphs [of deployment]," said Army Lt. Col. Luke Knittig of DOD public affairs, who is helping to coordinate the Defense and State Department project.

Photos taken overseas since 2000 by active-duty troops, veterans and Foreign Service members should represent daily life during a deployment, in a combat zone or from a humanitarian relief mission, he said.

Contest photos must meet

the exhibit's theme of friendships, places, faces, losses and triumphs of an overseas mission, and entries will be judged by a panel of up to seven people, Knittig said.

The 1,000 winning photos will be announced on Armed Forces Day, May 19.

Contest rules, photo specifications and submission forms are posted on the "Serving Abroad ... Through Their Eyes" website at www.ourmilitary.mil/theireyes/serving-abroad-throughtheir-eyes/.

Web to Migrate

In February 2012, the District's public Web page, (www.spa.usace.army.mil), will begin migration to a new platform as part of Objective 4b of the Corps' Campaign Plan to "communicate strategically and transparently." The URL will not change. The migration will create consistent branding and navigation on public Web pages across the Corps, streamline the content management process and deliver a rich end-user experience. For more information, contact Public Affairs at 505-342-3171.



Finance Corner

The Resource Management Office receives detailed, monthly reports showing ALL activities on travel cardholders, to include authorized or unauthorized use and delinquencies of accounts. To eliminate having problems on your account here are a few suggestions:

- a. File your vouchers within 5 days upon return from TDY.
- b. Split disbursement should include lodging, rental car and airline expenses.
- c. ATM withdrawals cannot exceed authorized amount of TDY.
- d. Make your payments on time (remember this affects your personal credit).
- e. Cardholders are strongly encouraged to register in Citibank to gain access to their account 24/7 and register for email alerts.

Per District Policy OM 37-1-18 and DOD FMR Volume 9 chapter 3, delinquencies and misuse must be reported to Supervisors and the District Engineer.