R I P R A P

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District

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Photo of owl taken by Park Ranger Craig Trinkle at the Corps' John Martin Dam

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Albuquerque District

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In this issue…

District Engineer,
Lt. Col. Jason Williams

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Log Boom Necessary to Help Sequester Debris at Cochiti Lake

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

The District has generated outreach materials and has updated its website to remind boaters and kayakers visiting Cochiti Lake that a log boom is in place and covers one end of the lake.

The log boom is a floating debris-containment barrier which has been placed in the lake because of the continuous debris flowing into the lake as a result of the Las Conchas Fire. The debris continues to impact recreational use at the lake and White Rock Canyon.

The log boom has been installed near the mouth of White Rock Canyon, above the Tetilla Peak boat ramp, to help intercept and contain debris. The center section of the log boom may be opened periodically, when the risk of debris is low. When the boom is in place, it is still possible to portage canoes and kayaks around the west side of the boom. However, rafts or larger craft coming downstream in the Rio Grande should contact the Cochiti ranger staff before starting a trip, so boaters know ahead of time whether or not their craft can be portaged around the log boom.

Photo by Mark Rosacker

This photo of debris accumulating on the beach at Cochiti Lake was taken April 10 and shows the volume and type of material flowing into the lake since last year's wild fires.

The rangers are telling people to travel downstream at their own risk, as the Corps cannot be responsible for assisting boats that are unable to portage around the log boom.

For any questions or concerns regarding the log boom or Cochiti Lake, please contact the Cochiti Project Office at 505-465-0307.

Corps Participates in Two Navajo Nation Exercises

Emergency management specialists from Albuquerque and Los Angeles Districts attended Navajo Nation Safety of Dams Emergency Action Plan exercises March 27 and April 10.

The purpose was to assess the coordination of activities between the Navajo Nation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and other affected agencies in relation to a flood event resulting from a dam failure.

The overall goal was to improve the ability to save lives and reduce impacts to property, structures and the environment.

Photo by Theresa Rogers

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

Director Discusses Strategic Direction of Corps' Military Mission

By Bob Slockbower, USACE Director of Military Programs

In the last decade USACE Military Programs experienced an unprecedented surge in military construction (MILCON) as the result of two major overseas contingency operations, BRAC 2005, Grow the Army initiative, Modularity and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009.

During this time, MILCON was largely viewed as a commodity to be delivered. As these initiatives draw down, we usher in a "post-surge era," where we will deliver a wide variety of engineering solutions to customers facing a dynamic and complex environment.

During the surge, we demonstrated our ability to meet customer requirements on time and on budget. In this new era, the total program value and the number of projects will decrease. However, customer expectations for value will remain high. The demand for enterprise standards and accountability will increase. Further, new requirements for energy efficiency and sustainability will be integrated into the delivery of all engineering services.

We anticipate increased demand for USACE to function as a systems integrator. Our value to our customer will not always be defined by our ability to "own" processes through all stages of completion. In many cases, we may have to apply a lighter touch, offering our technical expertise in new ways as our customer's business models change.

As we transition from providing services at historic levels to delivering integrated, innovative, sustainable solutions, we do so in anticipation of the rapidly changing operating environment that impacts our customers, our stakeholders and our organization. The next phase of our transformation will require both a shift in paradigm and capabilities.

We will need to shift our mindset from Military Programs to a more holistic Military Missions. The "Military Programs" mindset was strongly influenced by "stove-piped" organizational units, programs and associated funding streams. To function as a system integrator, we will adapt a Military Missions mindset and draw upon the collective capabilities of USACE located in a number of Directorates to include Military Programs, Civil Work, Research and Development, Human Resources, Resource Management and Contracting, as well as other functional directorates and staff offices. Military Missions captures all USACE organizational support for our military mission, rather than just those offices inside the Military Programs Directorate. It is an expansive term acknowledging our matrix organization and the interconnectivity of the whole organization.

Delivering high value engineering services for our enterprise customers in an era of

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Robert E. Slockbower was appointed Director of Military Programs, United States Army Corps of Engineers in January 2010. He is responsible for policy, programming and technical support for the execution of the United States Army Corps of Engineers' program for design, construction and environmental activities in support of the Army, Air Force, other Department of Defense and federal agencies and foreign countries.

From previous page—

severely constrained resources will remain a driving future issue for USACE Military Missions.

Several of the factors currently shaping the Military Missions strategic context in the post-surge era include:

- Significant reduction in MILCON program and number of projects
- Significant increase in requirements for energy and sustainability solutions
- Change in customer mix
- Increased potential requirements for Restoration and Modernization of existing facilities
- Increased potential requirements to support combatant command theater engagement
- Increased customer expectation for enterprise solutions

BEING SOLUTIONEERS

Delivering solutions is the heart of our organization. It applies to all our offices and business lines. It is the primary reason that Military Missions exists. It is the reason other agencies come to us—to get something done.

Continuing to meet military mission requirements in this budget-constrained environment is a challenge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is addressing head-on. Now more than ever, our engineers are faced with managing complexity while driving innovation to meet the current and future infrastructure needs of our military and our Nation.

Hangar Nearly Complete at Holloman

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

The Albuquerque District has a robust military construction (MILCON) program with work occurring at three Air Force bases in New Mexico. An example of a MILCON project nearing completion is the Hangar 500 renovation and addition at Holloman Air Force Base, near Alamogordo.

The $17 million contract awarded to Creative Times Incorporated, Ogden, Utah, included $6.5 million to renovate the existing hangar with a new roof, fire suppression upgrades and replace the hanger floor paving. It also included a 14,574 square foot administrative support addition with fire suppression, utilities, site improvements and communication systems, all necessary to maintain Predator aircraft.

The project's customer is the 849th Maintenance Squadron, and its airmen will be using the hangar to perform maintenance on remotely piloted aircraft.

The contractor was given the notice to proceed on Nov. 15, 2010, with an anticipated completion date of mid-February 2012. However, projects sometimes run into delays because of weather or problems encountered during the course of work, and Hangar 500 was no different.

Photo courtesy of HAFB Resident Office

Recently, Hangar 500 was given a shiny, new epoxy floor as part of its renovation.

"When the contractor did a partial demolition of the concrete grout between the 40-year-old hangar door rail tracks, we discovered that the rails were rusted out," said Civil Engineer George Hostler. "When the contractor's proposal came in we were short on money for new rails, so the District's David Dark in contracting, who is a skilled negotiator and modification writer, found funds through a well-engineered, partial de-scoping modification to pay for replacing the rails. Thanks to him, the hangar schedule stayed on track and soon will be turned over to the customer."

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

District Happenings

Santa Rosa Students Ready for the Water

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

Santa Rosa, N.M.'s semi-arid climate seemingly lacks water. However, the town is home to a dozen spring-fed lakes, and many are popular swimming and recreation destinations.

It's also home to the regionally-known Blue Hole, popular with scuba divers, and Santa Rosa Lake. The District created the largest lake in the area with the construction of Santa Rosa Dam on the Pecos River in the late 1970s and early1980s.

Bob Mumford, a park ranger at the District's Santa Rosa Dam, specializes in teaching water safety at Santa Rosa Elementary School. Mumford is affectionately known in the community as "Ranger Bob."

Ranger Bob recently wrote and received a grant from ENMR, a local phone cooperative that has awarded grants to others in the community. The grant was used to purchase and distribute lifejackets and Whistles for Life to all the students at the elementary school.

Mumford presented 49 jackets and whistles to the Pre-Kindergarten and Headstart students April 4 and 244 jackets and whistles to the elementary school students April 5 in the school's gymnasium.

As part of the grant, each child pledged to pass their lifejacket to one of their friends or family when it no longer fits them. The students also pledged to pass on the knowledge of how to wear and use it.

Before the jackets were given out, Mumford addressed the students, going over the five steps to properly wear a lifejacket.

Step one: Check the label. The label has the size and says if it is Coast Guard approved.

Step two: Check for damage. Look for any rips, tears and holes. Inspect the seams, fabric strap and hardware and make sure the belts and tie tapes are secure. There should not be any waterlogging, mildew odor or shrinkage of the buoyant materials.

Step three: Fasten it up.

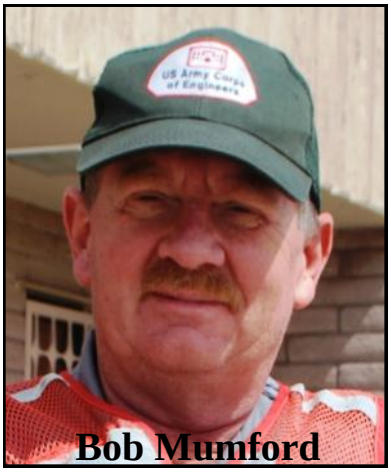
Step four: Check for a proper fit. To check for a good fit, pick the child up by the shoulders of the lifejacket. If the lifejacket fits, the child's chin and ears will not slip through.

Step five: Wear it! It may only take 60 seconds for an adult to drown and 20 seconds for a child to drown without one, according to the Personal Floatation Device Manufacturers Association.

Mumford will retire this fall after more than 30 years of federal service, 23 of them at Santa Rosa Dam. He has taught water safety at the school since 1990. Several current teachers commented that they remember his water safety presentations from when they were in school.

"I wanted to do something special for the Santa Rosa kids before I retire," Ranger Bob said. "The students have done so much for me."

Shank Cribbs with New Mexico State Parks shows a student how to properly wear a life jacket.



District Restores Ecosystems with River Engineering

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

River engineering is the process of planned human intervention in the course or flow of a river with the intention of producing a benefit, like reduced flooding or easier passage.

While involved in river engineering today, the Corps has increased the emphasis on protecting and restoring the environment.

The employees in the Corps' Albuquerque District engineered levees along the middle Rio Grande about 50 years ago, after the river had been significantly channelized from development and irrigation works. The levees were created in response to historical instances of catastrophic flooding and loss of life, but they locked the river and kept if from finding its natural path. Before this work and the installation of dams at key positions upstream of Albuquerque, the Rio Grande would transport and deposit sediment as it meandered across the Rio Grande Valley making the soil ripe for planting.

"Meanders are nature's way of slowing the flow of a creek, stream or river, and they result in helping to protect the floodplain from erosion," said District Hydraulic Engineer Steve Boberg. "Near Albuquerque, river engineering of the Rio Grande has created a perched river bed above the Valley floor and has hydrologically disconnected the river from the floodplain. If a significant flood occurred, much of the water

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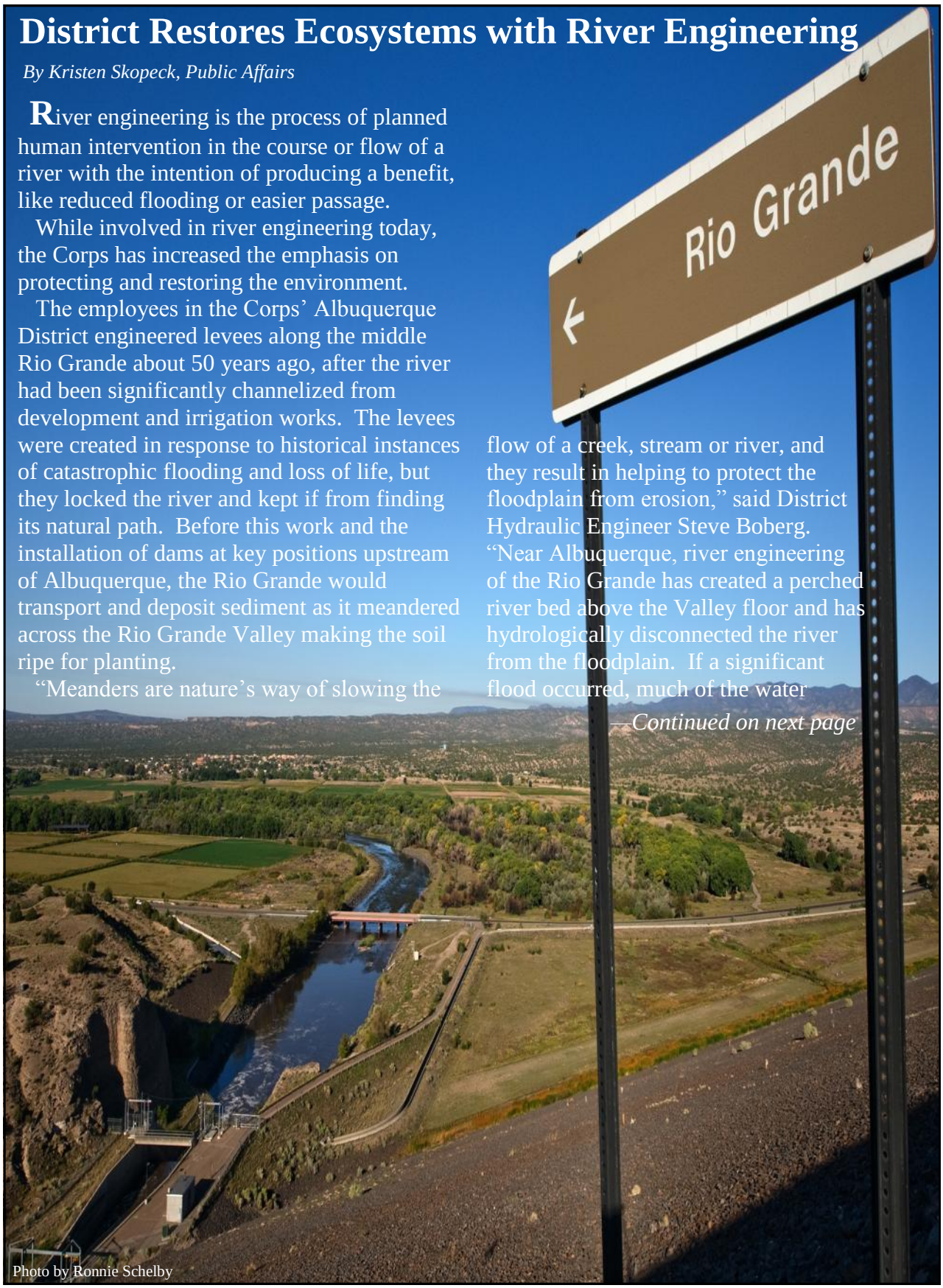

Photo by Ronnie Schelby

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

From previous page—

would not easily return to the river's channel."

Boberg said rivers naturally meander as they take the path of least resistance, which results in the river bed eventually obtaining an equilibrium slope. If a river runs into a large obstacle it will typically go around versus through the obstacle, under normal flow conditions. As a river meanders, the velocity of the water is variable because the water towards the outside of a meander moves at a faster rate than the water on the inside of a meander. Therefore, a river's shape changes over time, due to the different forces of the water and the obstructions the water encounters.

One result of channelizing and disconnecting the Rio Grande from the floodplain was increased urbanization and development. Another was the drying of fertile land to either side of the river and an increase in the potential for fires. Yet another was loss of wildlife habitat contributing to increased hardship on endangered species like the Rio Grande silvery minnow and the southwestern willow fly catcher.

In response to these changes, the Albuquerque District and partner agencies are now involved in several Rio Grande restoration projects to find ways to reconnect the River's active channel with the outer banks, while keeping the levees.

"We have to remember why we did the river engineering in the first place," Boberg said. "The levees were necessary to protect against severe flooding, and we have to make sure the restoration work does not reduce the effectiveness of these protections we have in place."

At a cost of more than $20 million, the restoration work will include removal of invasive plants, seeding, planting, thinning, removal of jetty jacks (very large iron jacks positioned along the banks to catch debris), bank lowering and introducing high flow channel braids.

According to Boberg, channel braids are small, semi-circular channels that are excavated on alternating sides of a river to encourage slow river flow and enhance wildlife habitat. The placement of the channels look like a braid when viewed from above and help return curves and meanders to the river during high flow.

Ecosystem restoration became a Corps' mission in 1990 with a goal to restore degraded ecosystem structure, function and dynamic processes in its areas of operation to a less degraded, more natural condition. In 2002, the Corps reaffirmed its commitment to the environment by formalizing a set of "Environmental Operating Principles" that are applicable to all of the Corps' decision making and programs. These principles foster unity of purpose on environmental issues, reflect a consistent tone and direction for dialogue on environmental matters and ensure that employees consider conservation, environmental preservation and restoration in all Corps' activities.

For the past 10 years, the District has been a member of the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program, which has, in accordance with state and federal laws and Rio Grande compact obligations, promoted the conservation and the recovery of the Rio Grande silvery minnow and southwestern willow flycatcher. The program has contributed to Endangered Species Act compliance for all program parties and has encouraged water development and management activities.

All signatories of the collaborative program agree successful recovery of endangered species depends on each member's cooperation to provide sufficient water and habitat to maintain viable populations.

Sufficient water is paramount yet a challenge in this arid climate, because nearly every drop of water in the District's operating area is closely accounted for via four water compacts. The four compacts are: Arkansas River Compact, Rio Grande Compact, Pecos River Compact, and Canadian River Compact.

A tight collaboration between several agencies, driven by the formal interstate compacts, has eliminated water wars and has helped protect a historic way of life for everyone along the major rivers in the Albuquerque District.

The four water compacts were set up to

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From previous page—

"remove all causes of present and future controversy regarding the equitable distribution of waters" within the states.

Compacts ensure that each state gets its agreed share of the water and provides for mathematical reimbursements when a partner doesn't.

Typically, each compact administration has a set of "engineer advisors" to the compact commissioners. The engineer advisors meet prior to the formal compact meetings and invite various federal, state and local agencies to provide updates on ongoing compact activities and water operations in preparation for the formal meetings. The Albuquerque District provides a report during the federal agency presentations portion of the formal compact meetings to explain Corps' activities within the respective river basins.

The Corps' lakes and dams in the Albuquerque District's area of operations play a critical role in supplying water for communities and farms, preventing or reducing flooding and providing recreational opportunities for the public. However, the District does not own any of the water and, unless flood operations are occurring, typical water releases are based on downstream demands by stakeholders.

Despite being the "middle-man" in the water purveyance business, the District's personnel have sole authority to ensure flood and storm damage reduction infrastructure is maintained so the public is less at risk. And, in times of disaster, the District is ready to provide emergency assistance.

According to the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS), flooding is the most common, costly and deadly natural disaster in the United States each year, and flash flooding is a real problem in the desert. Water doesn't quickly soak into dry and compact desert sand, and heavy rains tend to bring flood conditions with little to no warning. Remarkably, USGS confirms more people drown in the desert each year than die of thirst.

All of the Corps' myriad missions, from restoration to disaster response, have one thread of commonality; they are conducted by people who are motivated to deliver high quality solutions. The Corps' motto of "Building Strong" means putting people first, while working to solve local engineering (including river engineering) challenges.

Promoting Our Partners

Bureau of Reclamation

Established in 1902, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is best known for the dams, power plants, and canals it constructed in the 17 western states. These water projects led to homesteading and promoted the economic development of the West.

Reclamation has constructed more than 600 dams and reservoirs including Hoover Dam on the Colorado River and Grand Coulee on the Columbia River.

Today, BOR is the largest wholesaler of water in the country. The agency brings water to more than 31 million people and provides one out of five Western farmers (140,000) with irrigation water for 10 million acres of farmland that produces 60 percent of the nation's vegetables and 25 percent of its fruits and nuts.

Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States. The agency's 58 power plants annually provide more than 40 billion kilowatt hours, generating nearly a billion dollars in power revenues and producing enough electricity to serve 3.5 million homes.

BOR is a contemporary water management agency that helps the Western States, Native American Tribes and others meet new water needs while balancing the multitude of competing uses of water in the West.

Visit the BOR website at www.usbr.gov for more information.

Corps Makes Contribution to Feature Film Making

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

New Mexico has become a hotbed for the television and movie industry within the last few years. Although the number of shows and movies being produced here ebb and flow, there are usually many productions taking place in this beautiful and picturesque state.

The Albuquerque District often "plays a role" during the production of these projects, as representatives from production companies contact us for guidance and film permits.

Depending on the film's needs, different sections of the District can become involved, but you can bet regulatory, real estate and public affairs are in the mix. Normally, all three sections are notified when a film will take place on Corps' land or in jurisdictional areas.

Recently, the District was contacted by Rebecca Puck Stair, location manager for an upcoming feature film called "The Host," based on the book by Stephanie Meyer who is the author of the "Twilight" books. Stair wanted to make sure, while planning to shoot at a particular location with a waterway in New Mexico, that all of the Corps' rules and regulations are followed.

The query started with Francina Martinez, real estate specialist in charge of film permits, who determined the film location was not on land managed by the Corps. However, because it was taking place along the Rio Puerco River, Martinez knew regulatory needed to be involved.

Photo by Ronnie Schelby

Project Manager Eddie Paulsgrove talks to Assistant Location Manager Jennifer Joyce about the intended film location.

Eddie Paulsgrove, project manager in the Regulatory Division, asked to meet with Jennifer Joyce, the film's assistant location manager, at the film site, to understand what was planned.

"Regulatory Division has jurisdiction over all the waters of the United States below the ordinary high water mark, per the Clean Water Act," Paulsgrove said. "This ordinary high water mark varies and must be determined on site."

According to Paulsgrove, most of the employees in regulatory are multidisciplinary, physical scientists and dabble in everything from archeology to biology. When they do a site visit, they determine whether permits are required for the proposed activity and determine current stream or wetland conditions by looking at the landscape and ecosystem. This includes soils, vegetation, habitat, channel dynamics and water flow patterns. Once site conditions are identified, regulatory works with the production staff to understand their needs.

"Regulatory determines how the project will impact a location in the micro and macro environment," Paulsgrove said. "We are here to educate and assist the members of the film crew in understanding the bigger picture."

When Joyce explained the scene involved some trucks being driven on the side of the river, Paulsgrove wanted to determine if there were any recent plantings or other bank stabilization efforts, such as wire-wrapped rip rap, where

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From previous page—

they wanted to film that could be impacted by the movie.

"The Corps wants to ensure the integrity of the channel is maintained," Paulsgrove said.

By seeing the site, Paulsgrove noted that salt cedar, or tamarisk, was everywhere. Tamarisk is a noxious, invasive species that grows profusely around water bodies. However, even though invasive, the mature, established trees have become habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, an endangered species in New Mexico. Therefore, he advised Joyce that they could take out the younger saplings but not disturb the mature, established trees.

Paulsgrove also explained that vehicles entering the water must be steam cleaned ahead of time, and before leaving the scene, so they won't introduce any invasive species or spread any they encounter. Paulsgrove then pointed out areas of riprap and asked that it not be disturbed, and he asked that the dirt around the bank get raked back to the original landscape as much as possible.

The film crew set up a crane with a camera to take imagery of action taking place under a bridge along the Rio Puerco river.

"We try to leave each location better than we found it" Stair said. "We want to be able to come back and work on further projects and are interested in establishing a good relationship."

Ultimately, she said the relationship comes down to mutual respect. The film companies respect the law and reach out to various government and state agencies to not only get film permits, but to understand requirements and expectations. In return, the Corps and other agencies mutually respect the wishes of the film agency by not taking inappropriate photos, which include anything to be seen in the film (or actors) and by staying out of the crew's way.

When and Why are Film Permits Necessary?

If filming is to occur on federal, or public, land, it requires a permit. Government agencies are stewards of the public's land, and no one can have exclusive rights to the land, like is often required when filming a movie, unless they pay the government for the use. However, if the project is non-profit, it can be exempt. A small amount of film permit money taken in from profit-generating films goes to the agency, but the money mostly goes to the general fund.

The more involved the type of use, the longer it will take to get a permit. For example, if the film requires crashing a helicopter into federal land, meetings must be held to determine the environmental impacts and it takes time. Anyone interested in a film permit or with questions about filming on land managed by the Corps should call 505-342-4829.

Commentary—Flip a Switch to Kill Power-Hungry Vampires

By Don Doran, Hazardous Waste Manager, Kirtland Air Force Base and husband of Karen Doran, EEO Manager

Resource conservation - what an ambiguous term! Who does it apply to? Who should manage it? How does it affect me, or better said, "What part do I play?"

With such "catch-all" terminology we often lose sight of the impact that each of us contributes to the end problem. That's why sometimes we need to zero in on our individual habits and those of our families to figure out where we can make a difference, starting at the source.

Most of us feel the pain of high utility bills very personally, and, when it gets bad enough, we take immediate steps to reduce out-of-pocket costs. For example, when gas is $4 a gallon, we probably don't drive as far for "pleasure," we begin cutting unnecessary trips and consolidate some of our errands to make the most of each time we leave the driveway.

To bring our utility consumption under control, we might decide to lower our thermostat and keep a sweater handy, rather than crank up the heat and burn money.

We can turn off unnecessary lights and run the dishwasher or washer and dryer only when we have full loads, and much more, like use the "stop" control offered on most modern toilets. Not to mention, paying more attention to how many times we let the faucet run extra seconds or minutes while washing dishes or brushing our teeth.

At home or at work, after checking for the obvious, we can begin tracking down and slaying our "power vampires." Yes, we all have power vampires. Each appliance, entertainment system or gadget we use and has any kind of standby light or time display, or is generating any kind of background noise, light or heat, is sapping energy.

How do we control these vampires? The easy way is a power strip with an on/off switch. When you are done using the item or system, switch off the power strip. The vampire is dead, and the bleeding is stopped instantly.

These devices are great to control frequently used phone chargers, stereos, coffee makers, computers, TVs, transformers and other equipment that burns energy. Look around your house, shop or office. Every one of us can make a difference toward resource conservation. In doing so, we can reduce our out-of-pocket expenses.

It will take our combined efforts to reduce the multi-million-dollar utility bills for our military community and to reach Department of Defense and federal goals for reduced annual utilities consumption, but it can start with flipping switches.

Ragan Glandon, a mechanical engineer in the Tech Support Branch, is one of the District's regular motorcycle riders.

May is Motorcycle Safety Month!

Photo by Ronnie Schelby

Army Makes Motorcycle Training Mandatory

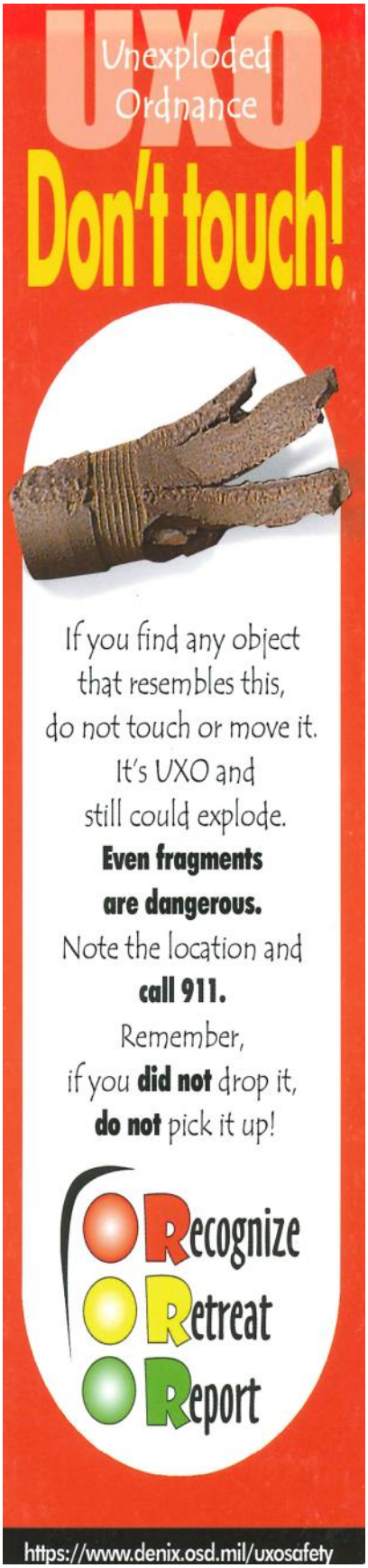
The Army Safety Program, which adheres to Army Regulation 385-10, has been updated to reflect a change in the area of motorcycle safety that directly affects the District's active duty military members.

According to an operation order issued in early 2012, motorcycle accidents are by far the leading cause of vehicular fatalities of Army military members, with motor vehicle accidents only slightly less. Because of this, the Army has made changes in the initial, advanced, refresher and sustainment motorcycle operator training.

"Motorcycle training is mandatory for all Soldiers desiring to ride a motorcycle, regardless of riding on or off installations," said Safety Specialist Richard Buttz. "Training for Soldiers will now follow a progressive training model that includes three distinct courses determined by the type of motorcycle operated."

All Soldiers operating motorcycles are required to take the Basic Rider's Course (BRC) prior to operating a motorcycle, a one-time requirement. Soldiers operating motorcycles will be required to complete advanced motorcycle training consisting of either the Experienced Rider's Course (ERC) or the Military Sportbike Rider's Course (MSRC) within 12 months following completion of the BRC. Optimally, this training will be taken 60 days after the BRC. Soldiers can take civilian equivalents in lieu of the Army provided ERC or MSRC, but will not be reimbursed.

It is mandatory that Soldiers who have been deployed for more than 180 days take Motorcycle Refresher Training (MRT). The purpose of refresher training is to review training, licensing, insurance, personal protective equipment, serviceability of the motorcycle and the Soldier's ability to conduct basic maneuvers. Finally, Motorcycle Sustainment Training (MST) is required of Soldiers every three years following the completion of the ERC or MSRC. At a minimum the MST will require the Soldier to retake the ERC or MSRC, based on the type of motorcycle being operated. "Even though this training is only mandatory for our military members, I encourage all riders to consider the training," Buttz said. For more info call 505-342-3186.



New Website Coming

The Corps has started launching redesigned public websites, and the District's new site is nearly complete. Across the Corps, sites will now have a consistent look and feel, which will make it easier for users to find information. However, URLs needed to change and previously bookmarked pages will no longer work.

As part of this migration, full control of the main public website will transfer from ACE-IT to the Public Affairs Office. If you have any concerns or questions, please call 505-342-3171.

Web: http://www.spa.usace.army.mil

Quality Management System TRIVIA

It is time again for QMS Trivia, but first I would like to recognize last month's winners for answering all five QMS questions correctly. The winners were Craig Lykins, Theresa Rogers and Carolyn Abreu. 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 this month's Trivia Questions:

1) What is the Engineering Regulation focused on USACE QMS?
2) How many Albuquerque District QMS Processes are currently in the QMS SharePoint?
3) Which Division and District provided the initial standard processes for QMS SharePoint?
4) What does CPI stand for?
5) What are the two mechanisms to provide feedback in QMS?

Good luck, and make sure to keep QMS on your radars!

Finance Corner

Some Federal agencies have recently earned a great deal of negative press emphasizing improper use of taxpayer funds. This gives us cause to be concerned, particularly as many public services we have come to rely on are becoming increasingly limited due to the current budget environment.

While these recent events will naturally impact public trust of our ability to responsibly manage resources, each of us are in a great position to change that perception by keeping the public need as our focus and remembering our own stake (as taxpayers ourselves) in the value of services we provide, as we conduct daily work and decision-making. Actions we can take extend from good planning to identifying ways we can conserve resources and improve work processes.

People are our greatest resource; we each have an important role and responsibility to raise the standard of service provided to the public.