



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Nashville District

# District Digest

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NASHVILLE DISTRICT

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# WATCHING EAGLES

## AT DALE HOLLOW LAKE

BUILDING STRONG with Pride and Purpose





# DISTRICT DIGEST

Official Journal of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District

Every year in January, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Nashville District) Park Rangers at Dale Hollow sponsor the "Bald Eagle Watch Weekend at Dale Hollow Lake." The group provides a free (by reservation only) tour on a barge on beautiful Dale Hollow Lake. Park Rangers from the Nashville District



Photo by Mark Rankin

(L to R) Amber Jones, Stephen Beason, Bryson Jarons, Sondra Carmen (Back row L to R) Bobby Bartlett, Stacy Bilbrey, Aaron Jones, Matthew Jameson and Gregory Nivens.

## District Digest

Commander  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Nashville District  
Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell

Chief of Public Affairs  
Bill Peoples

Editor  
Mark Rankin

Layout/Design/Copyeditor  
Mark Rankin/Allison Jarrett

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Written material may also be sent electronically to the editor at the following e-mail address: mark.a.rankin@usace.army.mil

Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's home page at: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil>.

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Jonathan Jarrett from Planning and Programs and his wife Lane welcomed Lucius in December just in time for New Orleans to win the 2010 Super Bowl. Lucius says... "Geaux Saints!" See Corps Crowd on page 10.



This group of kids spots an eagle while riding on a barge and eagle watching on Dale Hollow Lake on January 6, 2010. Rangers from the Nashville District sponsored the event. See Eagle Watch page 8.

# Words from the Commander

## Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

In the military arena, we term the straightforward approach to a message as Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF). You may know this as getting to the point, cutting to the chase (never really understood the chase part), or providing the main idea. So that is what I'm going to do...

How many of you have heard the following MOTTO? "We protect people from water, protect water from people, and make water useful." As I canvassed the district, I found that very few of you have ever heard it. I was surprised because it has been the motto of the district some three commanders removed. Not one to reinvent the wheel, but to tighten a spoke or change the tire, I thought I would re-introduce the motto to the Nashville District. Why you may ask? And I would tell you that my reason is simple. It is because it speaks to the importance of why we SERVE or come to WORK each day. Let us not forget why we do what we do. Thirteen words tell me that regardless of business line navigation, flood risk management, hydropower, environmental stewardship, recreation, and water supply we all play a major part in fulfilling or executing the mission of the district. So what is the motto of the district? We protect people from water, protect water from people, and make water useful.

The modus operandi for FY10 is EXECUTION. We must be about executing what we said we were going to do. With an appropriate

budget including ARRA of approximately \$367 million needing to be awarded and obligated, there is little room for incomplete passes and turnovers. We have to advance the ball on every down much like the award of the Kentucky Lock Upstream Monolith contract for \$40.7 million meeting a January milestone despite early dismissal during inclement weather conditions. Touch-down!!!

The implementation of the Facilities and Equipment Maintenance (FEM) system, a strategy of Goal 3c of the Chief's Campaign Plan, meeting a significant national milestone to "go live" on February 8, 2010: First Down!!!

Center Hill grouting and Chick Lock cofferdam construction (in the absence of an Inland Waterway Trust Fund fix/resolution: First Down!!! I know advancements of the ball are happening throughout the district, and even though I did not mention every project, action, or initiative here; please know the completions (milestone achievements) are not going unnoticed.

We are approaching the 50 yard line of the fiscal year; let's not wait until the fourth quarter to get our scores to win the game. In the months ahead, various defenses will be thrown at us, we must be able to read the defense and choose the right offense to "get 'ur done." Much like the New Orleans Saints were crowned Superbowl XLIV Champions with a 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts I am confident by years-end, we too shall be victorious.



Lt. Col. Anthony P. Mitchell

In case you did not know, the President's budget (PRESBUD) for FY11 was released on February 1, 2010 and Nashville District made out very well. It included \$293.3 million in total funding for the district, divided into accounts for investigations and studies, construction, and operation and maintenance. Wolf Creek Dam included \$134 million in funding for on-going seepage repairs, the largest amount ever for a single project in the Nashville District. Whoa! Center Hill followed suit with \$77.8 million in the budget. Kentucky Lock was allowed \$2.87 million for completion of the highway and railroad superstructures construction contract. Lastly, \$78.1 million was included for operations and maintenance to fund activities for hydropower, navigation, recreation, environmental stewardship, flood damage reduction, and water supply at the projects. Commitment to safety was the focus of this year's budget emphasizing dam safety and seepage control, which

*Continued on page 4*



# Words from the Commander

*Continued from previous page*

faired very well for our DSAC I projects (Wolf Creek and Center Hill Dams).

The district OPLAN is coming to fruition. Coalesced with the LRD IPLAN and USACE Campaign Plan, the intent was to develop a plan that speaks to each of you, a plan that reinvigorates the commitment, pride and purpose to drive you to “Make Your Good Great” and ensure we are “Built to Last.” Now, I need your buy-in! We began the rewrite of the plan with the defining of our Big 4 Objectives: 1) Support Overseas Contingency Operations and all-hazards emergency response (expeditionary mindset); 2) Efficiently operate and maintain our projects and provide water resource solutions in collaboration with our stakeholders in the Cumberland-Tennessee River basins; 3) Deliver enduring, innovative and sustainable civil works operations programs/projects and support to International and Interagency Support (IIS) programs; and 4) Build, develop, and sustain a high-performing Team and processes to deliver world class quality. From these objectives, 17 district actions were developed, and it is these objectives/actions that you will need to answer this basic question. How do YOU contribute?

BLUF: Personal accountability, responsibility, and ownership of the district OPLAN is what I seek from you. This is how we as a district will deliver superior performance, set the standard, make a positive impact on the nation and be built to last.



Photo by Mark Rankin

Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell presents William “Bill” Hill with his Certificate of Retirement and a Army Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication and service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Bill retired from the Corps in January 2010 with 31 years of service.



Photo by Mark Rankin

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Ranger, Gregory Nivens from Dale Hollow Lake gives Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell, Commander, Nashville District, a tour of the newly renovated barge and engine room during a recent visit to the lake and Trooper Island. Mitchell presented Trooper Island with the 2009 Water Safety Award and lauded rangers for their dedicated service to the community.

I hope you realize the vital importance of what you do and feel the PRIDE and sense of PURPOSE that I feel when I reflect on the things you do. I was visiting an employee’s workspace the other day and a small sign on the wall said “How may I serve you?” I thought for a minute and wondered how many of you realize that we are public servants, and we are here to provide a SERVICE. Well, we are and we do. I ask again, how do you contribute? The answer is simple, YOU protect people from water, YOU protect water from people, and YOU make water useful. Let us not forget why WE SERVE in the Nashville District and those deployed, and their families, who are serving selflessly in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Thanks for all you do. The Nashville District Team is **BUILDING STRONG®** with Pride and Purpose!

# Cheatham Power Plant upgrades with ARRA funds

Story by Fred Tucker, Nashville District, Public Affairs Specialist

Thanks to the \$1.56 million in Stimulus funds Cheatham Power Plant received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), much needed maintenance projects are now underway at the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility in Charlotte, Tenn.

Cheatham Power Plant, Lock and Dam are located between Nashville and Clarksville, Tenn., on the Cumberland River at approximate river mile 148.7 above its confluence with the Ohio River.

“Stimulus funds are helping us replace equipment, repair a damaged Headgate and perform maintenance on equipment that we have previously been unable to do because of limited budget and workforce,” said Cayce T. Tiesler, Power Plant Specialist, who supervises eight full time employees and three temporary hires.

Cheatham Power Plant’s three 20,000 horsepower turbines were built by Newport News Virginia Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., and Unit No. 1 was installed in 1956. Cheatham’s three 13.3 megawatt Westinghouse generators came on line in 1958.

Projects include a \$516,600 contract awarded to Renewable Resources and Management, Robbins, Tenn., for repairing lower structural members of a damaged 21 X 36-foot, 40-ton Headgate; removing old J-Seals, cleaning, epoxy-coating, installing new J-Seals and painting six Headgates.

“Sherrick Construction of Nashville, Tenn., was awarded a \$190,000 contract for refurbishing the Hydropower Water Intake Bulkheads which are used to un-water the generator intake passage for maintenance activities,” Tiesler said.

Simplex Grinnell LP of Nashville has a \$257,000 contract to do design work in preparation for replacing the CO2 fire suppression systems; Kimbro Oil Company also of Nashville, is working on a compatibility study before replacing a total of 14,000 gallons of Hydraulic Generator Oil for \$97,000.

A \$158,000 Security System has been installed by Tinaa Services, Inc., Kalispell, Mont.; and ELR Project Services, LLC, Oak Ridge, Tenn., has prepped and repainted the 50-ton, rail-mounted Headgate Crane under a \$77,000 contract.



Photo by Fred Tucker

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District employee Cayce T. Tiesler, a Power Plant Specialist at the Cheatham Power Plant, stands next to a 21 x 36 foot, 40-ton Headgate, presently being refurbished with stimulus funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

MSE Technology Applications, Butte, Mont., upgraded the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system under a \$30,000 contract. SCADA permits Old Hickory Power Plant to remotely monitor and control the generators, switchyard, and critical auxiliary equipment at Cheatham.

“Receiving the ARRA funds has been a great opportunity and has also created a challenge for my experienced employees to ensure the safety of the contractors and new temporary employees, as safety is our top priority,” Tiesler explained.





Photo by Mark Rankin

Bill Peoples, Public Affairs Chief from the Nashville District and Risk Communication instructor, offers advice on the Public Participation Process to Kathy Grimes, Navigation Branch; Doug DeLong, Project Delivery Branch; and Andreas Patterson, Natural Resources Branch, as they work to plan a mock public meeting on dam safety.

## Corps employees sharpen risk communication skills

Story by Allison Jarrett, Nashville District, Public Affairs Specialist

If you happened to walk through the Cumberland River Operations Center at Old Hickory last week, you might have overheard Lt. Col. Mitchell shouting that his house was going to be flooded by a Corps of Engineers dam. The Commander of the Nashville District was not actually angry, but was participating in a role-playing exercise as part of the Risk Communication and Public Participation Course.

Lt. Col. Mitchell and other “angry citizens” were staging fake public meetings, throwing tough questions at their classmates and testing their ability to communicate risk. The exercise was the final exam of the three-day course, held the last week in January. Course instructors from across the Corps led the eighteen participants through the basics of creating public participation opportunities and communicating risk to a variety of audiences.

But what is risk communication? The course manual defines it as “communicating with any stakeholder, in-

ternal or external, on any issue that could impact your organization’s mission.” “Learning risk communication skills is crucial,” stressed Dwayne Ford, a course instructor and civil engineer with the Corps’ Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville. “One communicator misfiring or saying the wrong thing can derail your entire mission.”

The Corps has placed new emphasis on risk communication in recent years, as Bill Peoples explained. Peoples, Chief of Public Affairs for the Nashville District, recently returned from an assignment in Headquarters where he led the effort to develop this course and spread Risk Communication and Public Participation skills throughout the Corps. “In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Risk Communication and Public Participation were identified as areas for improvement by USACE,” said Peoples. He went on to explain that USACE leadership included these areas as part of former Actions for Change Program, the program to address issues raised after Hurricane Katrina, which ultimately led to the development of this training. “The

principles, processes and techniques in this course,” Peoples emphasized, “have the potential for changing how USACE communicates with stakeholders and the public.” Corps employees from a variety of branches and backgrounds attended the class, including engineers, lock operators, readiness specialists, project managers, and more.

“I signed up for the course because I knew it was important to improve my public communication skills,” said Josh Bobo, a Natural Disaster Manager in the Readiness Branch. “In an emergency response situation, the skills and techniques I learned during this class will be put to the test, as I would probably be in charge of briefing the media and stakeholders about the current conditions of a disaster.”

Lannae Long, an engineer in the Environmental Restoration Branch, stressed the importance of employees in her field learning skills like she learned in the course. “Effective communication and presentation skills are essential in every layer of work USACE does, and every layer of work I do,” she explained. “I want to be an effective communicator with the public because they deserve to know what is going on at public works projects I work on and know about.”

In the course, students discussed techniques for involving the public in the decision-making process, as well as tools for responding to challenging and emotionally charged questions from the public.

Both Long and Bobo cited the Four-step Response system for these questions as one of the most useful tools they learned. “You listen to their concerns and questions, then respond with empathy, conclusion, supporting facts, and future actions, in that order,” explained Long. “If I were the public, this is how I would want to be heard.”

### **“In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Risk Communication and Public Participation were identified as areas for improvement by USACE,” said Bill Peoples.**

The final exercise was the culmination of the course, intended to test every aspect of what the participants had learned. Not only were these students put on the spot and badgered by their classmates for difficult answers to challenging questions, but students also were tasked with planning the mock public meeting in order to meet public involvement and participation goals. “You really had to be on your toes and apply all the tools we had learned,” said Mark Rankin, a Public Affairs Specialist. “They were throwing really tough questions at us, but these are real-life situations that anyone in the Corps can encounter.”



Photo by Mark Rankin

(LtoR) Chuck Nelson, Watts Bar Lock; Fred Tucker, Public Affairs; Yvonne Hamilton and Tim O’Connell, Executive Office; discuss involving the public in the decision-making process and implementing tools for responding to challenging and emotionally charged questions from the public.

The feedback from students about the course was overwhelmingly positive, and most said they would highly recommend the class to their colleagues. “This was a great course full of valuable information that can be applied to many aspects of day to day operations, both professional and personal,” said Bobo.

There are still opportunities to take this course, and individual districts can fund it. Peoples and his team have worked to train 14 instructors throughout USACE who are qualified to teach the course. Peoples explained that the course will eventually be converted into a PROSPECT course for FY11. “I believe this training is critical for anyone who deals with the public or who serves on a Project Delivery Team,” he stressed.



Photo by Mark Rankin

Ben Rohrbach, Chief of Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, practices acting as a meeting facilitator and assists his team in creating key messages for their stakeholders.



# Watching for eagles at Dale Hollow Lake

Story and Photos by Mark Rankin, Public Affairs Specialist and Sondra Carmen, Environmental Specialist

Every year, in the middle of January, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Staff at Dale Hollow Lake looks forward to hosting their annual Eagle Watch tours. This year, it was a cold and brisk morning on January 16, and people from all over Kentucky and Tennessee lined up at the Lillydale recreation area to board a barge for the first day of the tour.

“I’ve been coming to this Eagle Watch tour for almost 20 years and I enjoy it more and more every year,” said Mrs. Mary Pride. “It’s so much fun.” The Corps offers two chances in January for people to spend their Saturday onboard the barge sightseeing, talking about eagles and mingling. The barge picked up its first watchers from the Lillydale Recreation Area and the remaining group at Dale Hollow Resort State park. “We do this so everyone from Tennessee and Kentucky has the opportunity,” said Stephen Beason, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resource Manager at Dale Hollow. On the January 23rd tour, about 75 riders of all ages enjoyed the sunny weather and searched the treelines for a rare glimpse of the nation’s symbol.

“We had a great turnout this year as usual,” said Beason. “It’s fun to just see how many people are interested in eagles and love them as much as we do.”

Beason said eagles winter at Dale Hollow Lake where a better food supply is available when their normal haunts farther north in Canada are frozen over. Warmer winter temperatures may mean fewer eagles have elected to abandon their summer homes and head south to Tennessee and Kentucky.



Sightseers on board the Corps barge scan the tree lines for a sighting of the eagles. Many make the annual trip to Dale Hollow Lake to take photos and enjoy the view.





Stephen Beason, Dale Hollow Lake Resource Manager briefs a group of eagle watchers before shoving off on Dale Hollow Lake on January 16, 2010. Many faithful eagle watchers have participated in the annual event for more than seven to ten years.

The bald eagle is an American wildlife success story. Almost extinct due to hunting, habitat loss and the effects of pesticides like DDT, the bald eagle has made a stunning recovery.

In 1782, the Continental Congress made the bald eagle our national bird. Bald eagle populations dropped from more than 100,000 nesting eagles at that time to only about 400 breeding pairs in 1963. Today, there are more than 7,500 breeding pairs in the lower 48 states, including an increasing number of nests found in the northern United States and Canada. They are often seen at locks and dams where water remains open year all winter for fishing.

Today, bald eagles are important tourist draws for river communities. Many river towns host eagle watching festivals in winter.

Their nests are giant collections of sticks called eyries. They add to the nests each year until they are several feet across.

"They are certainly beautiful birds; they are very striking," said Beason, who studied eagles for his graduate degree. "They are predators, and they are fast. They represent power, strength."

"They have excellent eyesight, and they are quite fierce," he explained. "Those qualities intrigue humans. Humans have marveled at raptors for a millennium."

Whether homebody or visitor, eagles congregate on rivers like the Kentucky and the Tennessee during the cold months to fish in water that never freezes below dams.



## Eagles Facts:

- About 100,000 breeding pairs were alive in the lower 48 states when eagles were named the national symbol in 1782.

- The bald eagle is the only eagle unique to North America.

- More than 7,000 breeding pairs of bald eagles reside in the lower 48 states.

- Half of the estimated 70,000 eagles on the continent reside in Alaska. Another 20,000 reside in British Columbia.

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service changed the eagle's status from endangered to threatened in 1995 and proposed delisting the species entirely in 1999. That idea is still under consideration. Regardless, the eagle would remain protected from disturbance under other federal laws.

- For more photos and information on eagle watching at Dale Hollow see [www.lrn.army.usace.mil/op/dal/rec.html](http://www.lrn.army.usace.mil/op/dal/rec.html)

### Diet:

Mostly fish. Will also eat carrion and small mammals. Sometimes seen following large flocks of waterfowl where the occasional crippled bird makes easy prey.

### Status:

The bald eagle is recovering from near extinction. It was upgraded from endangered to threatened status in the mid-1990s. It is now poised to be removed from the Federal list of Endangered and Threatened Species.

### Age:

In captivity, a bald eagle may live to be 50 years old. In the wild, only about one in ten bald eagles hatched lives to reach maturity.

### Number of Eggs

two-three white eggs are laid in March or April.

# The Corps Crowd

## Thank you to...

I would like to thank my Corps family for your support of my retirement party and thank you for the beautiful eagle statue and American flag. I am truly going to miss my Corps family, especially my guys at Wheeler Lock and Dam. God bless each of you. *Marsha Holder*



## Congratulations to

...Nancy Manahan on her selection as the Supervisory Financial Management Specialist, Nashville District.



...Gerald Choat, who was selected for the position of Assistant Chief of Navigation Branch in Operations Division from a pool of very qualified candidates.

...Joanne Mann, who was selected to assume the Executive Liason Officer duties at the Great Lakes and Rivers Division in Cincinnati, Ohio on a temporary basis.

...Tim O'Connell of Old Hickory Lake in his selection as the Executive Assistant. Tim is the acting Executive Officer until Joanne returns.

...Alex Hays on his recent promotion to Senior Mechanic at Cheatham Power Plant.

...Terry Hudgins on his recent promotion to Journeyman Mechanic at Cheatham Power Plant.



...Joshua Marcum on his recent promotion to Journeyman Mechanic at Cheatham Power Plant.



...Alex Szostecki, age 12, son of Sgt. Maj. Charles Szostecki, who won the Knights of Columbus free throw championship on January 24 at Cheatham County High School.



## Welcome to...

### Office of Counsel

...Bill Woodard on his selection as Chief of Counsel, Nashville District. With over 20 years of service to the Corps, Bill comes to Nashville from the Savannah District where he served as District Counsel. He deployed to Iraq last year where he served as Division Counsel at Gulf Region District.



### Contracting Division

The Contracting Division welcomes Pam Woodard. Pam is a Contracting Specialist and resides with husband Bill and their children in Brentwood, Tenn.



### Programs and Planning Division

...Mary Tipton, a Biologist in Planning. She comes from Tennessee Tech and resides in Cookeville, Tenn.



### Baby Brigade to...

... Jonathan Jarrett and his wife Lane on the birth of their first child, Lucius Alexander Jarrett. Lucius was born December 6, 2009 at 9:45 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches long. Jonathan is a Programs Specialist.



... Stacy and his wife Jessica Bilbrey on the birth of their third child, Sawyer Bilbrey. Sawyer was born December 3, 2009 and weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. Stacy is a Park Ranger at Dale Hollow Lake.



...Chip Hall and his wife Amy on the birth of their second child, Cy Henderson. Cy was born February 3, 2010 at 8:25 a.m. He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 1/4 inches long. Chip is a Biologist in the Project Planning Branch.



## Sympathy to...

...the family and friends of Jerry Lee Denton, 72, a retired former district employee, who passed away Monday, February 1, 2010 at his residence in the Oak Grove Community of Clay County. Jerry worked as a general supply technician at Cordell Hull Lake. He is survived by his wife Ruth and two sons Mike and Brian.

...the family and friends of Ms. Sharon Wilson, a retired Nashville employee, who passed away on December 9, 2009. Sharon had a long career working as the Regulatory Office assistant as well as other positions within Operations. Sharon leaves behind her son, Shane Davis and grandchildren.

...Teresa Perkins and JR Simpson. Teresa's mother and JR's grandmother, Katherine Hatmaker, passed away on December 9 in Somerset, Ky. Teresa works in the Eastern Kentucky Area Office and JR works at Wolf Creek Power Plant.

... Gail Floyd, retiree from the Resource Management Office, whose mother, Mrs. Lucille Ball, 85, passed away on Tuesday, December 22, 2009.

...the family and friends of Mrs. Rosa Lee Swanner, 72, who passed away on December 25, 2009 after a long battle with cancer. Rosa retired from the Corps of Engineers, working with IM and at Old Hickory. She is survived by her son, Carl Swanner.

...Janis Clark, ACE-IT, whose brother, Mr. Tommy Strickland, passed away on January 23. A memorial service was held at the Texarkana Funeral Home, Texarkana, Ark.

...Mickie Porter of the Real Estate Division whose father, Alan Blythe, passed in November.

...Fred Tucker in Public Affairs whose brother, Mr. Carroll C. Tucker, 76, passed away January 15. A memorial service was held in Bowling Green, Ky. and in Colorado Springs, Colo.

...David Cherry, whose wife Ruby Cherry passed away Wednesday, January 27 after a tough battle with cancer. David is a Lock Operator at Wilson Lock.



# Nashville Leadership Development Program grows leaders through teamwork

Story by Mark Rankin, Public Affairs Specialist

A group of 12 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees from the Nashville District in December completed the 2009 year-long course designed to develop their leadership potential.

The Nashville District Leadership Development Program (LDP) is a part-time, year-long, multi-faceted leadership and management development program designed in direct response to the need to systematically develop the leadership and management skills of the Nashville District's current and future leaders and managers.

The LDP is based on the premise that while some people are "born leaders," still a vast majority of leaders will be grown and developed through this program.

Topics include: leadership, interpersonal communications, managing change, performance evaluation and management, counseling, mentoring skills, building effective team skills, conflict management and resolution, presentation skills, systems thinking, federal budget process. The group also participated in community service to organizations of their choice.

"The LDP course provides students with leadership tools and offers personal growth opportunities which then helps them better understand how to work with others --as a coworker or a manager," said Kim Franklin, LDP administrator.

The LDP provides employees with leadership tools and exposes individuals to greater opportunities by applying the individual's capabilities to influence positive change resulting in greater organizational learning and agility.

Prior to handing out the certificates of completion, Nashville District Deputy Commander Major William Judson compared the LDP program to Soldiers' Professional Military Education Development Program, and explained that the recent level completed by the participants is essential to their moving forward in their careers.

"This program makes a long-term investment in developing our future division leaders," said Judson. "You will use what you've learned from this class and apply that knowledge as a division chief one day."

A recent graduate from the program, Janelle Dickens from Resource Management, said the program has increased her self-awareness and understanding of her



Photo by Richard Scott

Nashville District 2009 LDP class graduates: (L to R) Tadd Potter, Alex Hays, Judy Smith, Adam Walker, Courtney Wilson, Jerry Sizemore, Judi Fleeman, Britt Henderson, Janelle Dickens and Daniel Keenum. Not pictured: Jonathan Jarrett and Stacy Bilbrey.

individual strengths, weaknesses and potential by learning about the team-building processes and improving the productivity level in a team using focused leadership skills. She said that her understanding of the importance of identifying the strength of the individual is key to ensuring any team's success.

"I really understand the process now and learned how to recognize that people have different styles of working and that I need to recognize my style and be willing to be flexible to accommodate the styles of my other team members," said Dickens.

Fellow graduate Courtney Wilson, a Ranger from J. Percy Priest Lake, agreed, saying the program increased her understanding of the many personalities of individuals. She said she would use the techniques and knowledge gained from the information, books and class discussions to complete future projects.

"I've gained so much knowledge from this course," said Wilson. "The knowledge gained allows me to minimize conflict or friction in my teams and stay focused on quality, customer care and team support," she said.

The program graduates are Stacy Bilbrey, Janelle Dickens, Judi Fleeman, Alex Hays, Britt Hendersen, Jonathan Jarrett, Daniel Keenum, Tadd Potter, Jerry Sizemore, Judy Smith, Adam Walker, and Courtney Wilson. For more information about Nashville Leadership Development Program go to the Nashville Intranet site. Look under Employee Info; click on Leadership Development Program.

# Mitchell presents Trooper Island 2009 Water Safety Award

Story and Photos by Mark Rankin, Nashville District, Public Affairs Specialist

Despite the chilling cold rain and overcast skies, Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District recently made his first trip to Trooper Island on Dale Hollow Lake in Celina, Tenn. to present Kentucky State Trooper First Class Craig Sutton, the Commander of Trooper Island Camp at Dale Hollow Lake, with the 2009 Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers Division National Water Safety Award.

Trooper Island Camp was developed by the Kentucky State Police as part of a long range program of public service to the youth of Kentucky. Boys and girls, ages 10 to 12, are selected from each of the sixteen post areas and each Trooper selects children that may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a camp.

The camp is located on Dale Hollow Lake near the Cumberland and Clinton County line, where an island is leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Trooper Island Camp and the Kentucky State Police have been outstanding partners for decades in promoting water safety at Dale Hollow Lake, and during the week-long camps, the Kentucky State Police provide youth from across the state an opportunity to enjoy outdoor water sports including swimming, canoeing, and fishing with an emphasis on water safety.

The Trooper Island staff partners with the Corps to include a water safety program as a part of each of the camper's schedule. Corps Park Rangers lead a water safety program and bring water safety materials and handouts to educate each group of campers. During the summer, over 500 youngsters receive the water safety education.

"Thank you for coming today as we honor Trooper Island and the Kentucky State Police for their valuable contributions they have made to our community and for their concentration and commitment to water safety," said Mitchell in his remarks at the award ceremony. "Trooper Island Camp and the Kentucky State Police are outstanding partners, and that's what we've got here, a great partnership with the Corps."

Mitchell said he was especially proud to present the award to Sutton and the staff at Trooper Island for the work that is being accomplished in teaching water safety to the young campers who stay there each camping season.



Photo by Mark Rankin

Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell, Nashville District Commander, presents Trooper Island Commander and Camp Director, Trooper First Class Craig Sutton with the 2009 Water Safety Award at Trooper Island on Dale Hollow Lake.

"Their dedication to promoting water safety at Dale Hollow Lake makes them more than deserving of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Water Safety Award," Mitchell said. "I can truly see the magnitude of great things that are being done here. That's a lot of kids and a lot of young people who are being molded and that's a great thing."

In accepting the award, Sutton acknowledged the value of the partnership between Trooper Island Camp and commended rangers Bobby Bartlett and Gregory Nivens from the Dale Hollow Resource Manager's Office for their service during the summer camping months when rangers frequented Trooper Island and worked closely with the campers.

"What people don't often realize down here on this island and this lake, is there aren't that many of us down here, so we have to depend on each other - that's what it's all about," Sutton noted. "It's a great honor for us to receive something like this award, and we appreciated the partnership we have with the Corps and everything they do for us."

Sutton was joined during the presentation by Kentucky State Police Lt. Col. Brad Bates, Director of the KSP Technical Division.

Mitchell, who assumed command of the Nashville District in July 2009, and was making his first visit to



Trooper Island Camp, also expressed his thoughts concerning the concept of the camp that provides a free week-long camping experience to 10-12 year-old at risk youngsters from across Kentucky each summer.

"Looking at it from the standpoint of where there's no restrictions in regard to where these children come from, and what they are doing, it goes without saying in terms of being able to truly bringing the importance of water safety, in terms of working together and of course not looking at race, creed, color, whatever, but just forming good bonds and friendships across the way," Mitchell said.

In these winter months, with the exception of a few maintenance staff members and Camp Director KSP Trooper First Class Craig Sutton, Trooper Island is pretty much deserted.

Despite a cold rain that was falling several members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville Office, along with personnel from the Corps Dale Hollow Resource Office, joined Sutton and others at Trooper Island for a brief presentation inside the recreation building.

"It is a great honor to be selected for this award," said Sutton. I know there are many deserving of this honor but it humbles me and motivates me do more for our kids."

He also made mention of the fact that a surprising number of the 10-12 year-old campers actually come back as adults to join the ranks of the Kentucky State Police.

"One of the benefits from this experience I understand is that a lot of these kids go forth and return later in life and look forward to being troopers and park rangers and other things, so we see these kids again, which is amazing to think we see them at such a young age, 10 and 12 years old, then 10 years later they're coming back and they can say that this right here is what started it all."

Sutton gave Mitchell and the Corps staff members a tour of the Trooper Island facilities, showing where the campers sleep, the wildlife classrooms, chapel and mess facilities.

The camp provides a week-long summer camping experience, free of charge, to 65 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 12 who likely would not otherwise be able to afford attending a summer camp.

During the week, in addition to water safety, the campers also are involved in wildlife study and a host of recreational and educational activities such as swimming, boating, canoeing, rifle safety and archery in addition to computer lab work.

Boys and girls, ages 10 to 12, are selected from each of the sixteen post areas by the Troopers. There is no cost to the campers who attend Trooper Island and there are no restrictions based on race, creed or color.

The Trooper Island staff also assists with the Dale Hollow Lake Eagle Watch each year. Held in January when the number of eagles are at their peak, the Corps offers the day for the public to have an opportunity to view our nation's symbol in the wild.

Tours are given on an open barge and all participants wear a life jacket. The Trooper Island Camp staff provide their barge to assist and to provide safety.

Ranger Bobby Bartlett said he enjoyed teaching kids about water safety and helping build the kids' characters.

"Water safety is very important and it equips a child with a tool they will use for a lifetime," said Bartlett.

"Trooper Island is part of our community and we're glad they are here and we can help," said Bartlett.



Photo by Mark Rankin

(L to R) Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell, Nashville District Commander, presents Trooper Island Commander and Camp Director, Trooper First Class Craig Sutton with the 2009 Water Safety Award at Trooper Island on Dale Hollow Lake. Also on hand were (L to R) Gerald Cunningham, Kentucky State Police: Area Commander; Stephen Beason, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resource Manager at Dale Hollow; Gregory Nivens and Bobby Bartlett, both Park Rangers at Dale Hollow Lake.

# Society of American Military Engineers offering scholarships

The Nashville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) is offering scholarship applications to SAME Nashville members, children and grandchildren of SAME Nashville members (current or deceased), and employees, children or grandchildren of Sustaining Member Companies, and employees, children and grand children of employees of the USACE Nashville District.

The Scholarships up to \$2,500, and will be given for use during the 2010 – 2011 academic year. SAME Nashville Post has given over \$282,000 in 238 scholarships since 1990, gave \$500 the first year, and has given as high as \$32,000 in 2000.

The Scholarships are to encourage and assist deserving students pursuing a college education in the fields of engineering, architecture, mathematics, computer science or related fields. Preference is for students with military aspirations.

Applications are currently being accepted for graduating high school seniors and current college students.

The application period opens February 15, 2010 and the deadline for submission is April 16, 2010.

Get an application starting February 15, 2010 FROM THE WEBSITE, or by contacting Lannae Long at [Lannae.J.Long@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lannae.J.Long@usace.army.mil) or at (615) 736-2049. Mail your complete application package to: Mr. Peter Schulert, Environmental Science Corporation, 12065 Lebanon Road, Mt. Juliet, Tennessee 37122.

For more detailed information about application and selection criteria, contact Peter Schulert, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair, Environmental Science Corporation, at (615) 758-5863 (ext 139), or e-mail at [pschulert@envsci.com](mailto:pschulert@envsci.com); Lannae J. Long, Co-Chair at USACE, at (615) 736-2049 or e-mail at [Lannae.J.Long@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lannae.J.Long@usace.army.mil) or William James, Committee Member at USACE, at (615) 369-7508 or email at [William.L.James@usace.army.mil](mailto:William.L.James@usace.army.mil)



## AWARDS

### Employee of the Month



Robert Franklin is the December 2009 Employee of the Month. Robert is an Accountant in the Resource Management Branch and is recognized for his SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE of duties as the lead hydropower accountant for the nine hydropower plants throughout the district. Franklin assumed this responsibility following the unexpected retirement of his predecessor in July 09.

### HedgeHog Award



Photo by Mark Rankin

(L to R) Cullum Miller, Amanda Burt, John Manor, Janelle Dickens, Linda Ingram, Lt. Col. Mitchell, Dennis Neavling and Jeff Hitchcock. This group collaborated with the Veteran's Affairs Support Team to implement the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The recipients of this award are recognized for GREAT contributions. The PASSION and EXCELLENCE contributed to building the LRN brand clearly demonstrate a 'get 'er done' attitude.



# Built to Last

by Stephanie H. Coleman

Two thousand ten brought with it  
A chance to start anew  
As a fresh decade was ushered in  
You likely resolved to be a better you

If at first you don't succeed  
It has been said to try again  
Staying focused on the vision  
In the end, we all will win

Determination plus inspiration  
And an endurance to stick it out  
Motivation and dedication are  
The tools to get us there, no doubt

We have always been about excellence  
Playing the roles we've each been cast  
Ensuring the show goes on regardless  
For we were meant to last

We've had some challenging issues  
Which have put us to the test  
But in the end, emerged victorious  
Standing out among the rest

The District has stood the test of time  
By following words with meaningful deeds  
By not just talking about our problems  
But developing solutions to meet our needs

And the critical work ahead should be  
Approached without hesitation or fear  
That's what it took over 120 years ago  
And it is what will keep us here

Built to last, we will not falter  
Beaten and battered along the way  
But resilience is in our nature  
Reliable and ready, come what may

Cultivating, delivering, rebuilding  
Whether on this side of the sea  
Or supporting contingency operations  
Being all that we were built to be

We've established a legacy of excellence  
By learning to take the lead  
Innovative ways of doing business  
It's how the best of the best succeed

Failure has never been an option  
And for the better, let us take our vow  
On the journey from good to great  
The transition is happening now

**BUILDING STRONG®** with pride and purpose  
This is our future – not our past  
We stand today proudly knowing  
That we were built to last

## Additional funding awarded for Kentucky Lock project

*Story by Fred Tucker, Public Affairs Specialist*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District awarded a \$40.7 million Kentucky Lock Upstream Lock Monoliths contract to Thalle Construction of Hillsborough, North Carolina on January 29, 2010. Kentucky Lock and Dam span the Tennessee River between Livingston and Marshall Counties in western Kentucky.

Funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, this award includes the base contract and the first two of ten options which will permit construction of all nine upstream concrete monoliths to partial height and complete the most upstream monolith to the full 100-foot height. A concrete monolith is an individual section of a lock wall. Work on the two year contract should begin around March 1, 2010.

“Receiving these stimulus funds is vital to meeting the projected completion date of 2016 for the Kentucky Lock Addition project,” said Project Manager Don Getty.

“Due to the nature of this project, the upstream one-third of the lock will have to be completed before commencing construction of the downstream two-thirds.

“Constructing eight monoliths to partial height will ensure a stable configuration of the site until the next construction contract can be awarded,” Getty added.

If additional funding becomes available, up to eight options will be exercised on the contract to complete the remaining eight monoliths to full height, for a 1200-foot long navigation

lock, bringing the full value of Thalle's contract to \$56.95 million.

“This contract is the seventh major construction contract to be awarded on the \$714 million Kentucky Lock Project.

“Two more are planned to complete the project in 2016, contingent on efficient funding in Fiscal Year 2012 and beyond,” Getty stated.

The new lock is needed to accommodate the many barge tows exceeding the capacity of the existing 600-foot lock to increase vessel capacity and reduce costly waiting time for lockages.

All components of the Kentucky Lock Addition project are federally funded, with 50% of budgeted funds borne by the National Inland Waterways Trust Fund which comes from a special federal tax applied to marine diesel fuel.

