



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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Huntsville Center

Bulletin



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Commander's column

Happy New Year! 2005 brings significant challenges and opportunities to our Center.

Our nation is at war and may be far into the foreseeable future.

We will continue to focus all our efforts on supporting Soldiers; whether that means eliminating the ammunition stockpiles of Saddam Hussein being used against our forces or protecting all of us from missile attack and everything in between. Never lose focus on them.

We have reorga-



Col. John D. Rivenburgh

nized. We are still refining the specifics but we have made the change.

Embrace the change and grow with us as we strive to do an even better job of delivering projects to our customers.

As we make the move into the new structure feel free to publicly provide constructive comments to Dr. Mike Stovall, Mr. Jim Cox or myself as we slide teams around the organization.

Our Army is changing – we are changing to keep up with that evolution.

Thanks again for all you do every day. Remember all our folks who have bravely and selflessly deployed overseas; they and their families need your continued thoughts and prayers.

New deputy

I am pleased and humbled to have been selected as your senior civilian leader. Our success is the sum of your efforts.

I see my primary roles as both a helper and a leader. I pledge to help you to accomplish the many unique missions assigned to Huntsville Center.

I will also look out for your welfare. This year will lead to many



Michael E. Stovall

new and exciting challenges for the Corps of Engineers and Huntsville Center.

It is my intention to work with you to expand

our quality work while building your professional expertise.

To ensure our success, I ask for your support in promoting teamwork as part of our efforts to increase partnering with other Corps of Engineers elements and federal agencies.

I'm happy to be a member of the Huntsville team and hope you feel the same. My door is always open to you.



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BULLETIN

Commander.....Col. John D. Rivenburgh
Chief, Public Affairs.....Dan Coberly
Editor.....Beth E. Musselman
Editorial AssistantJoan Burns

News Notes

Huntsville Center tornado warning procedures

Here's what should happen when a tornado warning is issued for our area of Madison County:

- The Safety Office notifies employees to move to their designated area via PA system
- Floor monitors assist employees in moving to their designated area and ensure all doors are closed
- When the warning has expired Safety notifies the employees that it is safe to return to their work areas
- Use only the center stairwell when moving to your designated area
- Employees should bring any medications that may be needed, as they may not be able to get back to their work areas for some time.

For additional information read the August 2004 Emergency Plan.

Harvard offers SEF program

Nominations are now being accepted for the Harvard University Program for Senior Executive Fellows. All applications are due in HQDA by Feb. 4 for the March 6 through April 1 class.

The 4-week course is open to GS-14/15 managers. The purpose is to build executive skills in political and public management, human resource management, organizational strategy, communication and leadership.

A full description of the course and the application process can be found at www.cpol.army.mil.

The POC is Valerie Peyton at (703) 325-0615.

Scholarships available

The 2005 Truman Scholarship selection process is currently underway.

Truman Scholarships provides up to \$30,000 in funding for students pursu-

ing graduate degrees in public service fields.

In 2005, the Truman Foundation will provide one "state" scholarship and choose up to 25 at-large scholars.

To learn more visit www.truman.gov.

Cold war service recognized

The Army is managing a DoD program that recognizes service members and government civilian employees for their service during the Cold War.

The certificates, signed by former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen, will be provided to all members of the armed forces and qualified Federal government employees who served the United States Sept. 2, 1945 - Dec. 26, 1991.

Visit www.army.mil/cmh-pg/faq/cw-cert.htm for further details.

Tips for donating blood

Huntsville Center is continuously support the Red Cross through blood drives. Here are a few tips on what you should do before donating:

1. Drink plenty of caffeine-free, non-alcoholic fluids both before and after donating.
2. Eat a well balanced meal including carbohydrates, fruit and protein within four hours prior to giving blood.
3. Get a good night's sleep.

myPay offers 2004 W2's electronically

Federal employees can now retrieve their W-2 Form, Wage and Tax Statement, for 2004 via the myPay website, <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>. The electronic W-2 is an Internal Revenue Service approved method and can be used to file your 2004 income taxes.

Your Social Security Number and a Personal Identification Number (PIN) are all that you need to access information via myPay. If you do not have a PIN, you may obtain one via email by clicking on the 'New

PIN' button on the website at the web address shown above. A temporary PIN will be emailed to your Army Knowledge On-Line email address on file.

If you have questions regarding myPay, please call the myPay contact center at 1-800-390-2348.

Although a hard copy W-2 is not necessary when using the electronic version, hard copies were mailed by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to the address on file in the Defense Civilian Pay System. Employees who have not received, but would like to obtain a hard copy W-2, should notify their Customer Service Representative after January 31, 2005.

Army deploys new resume builder / answer tool

On Jan. 26 the Army deployed a new version of Army civilian Resume Builder and ANSWER.

The deployment of the new Resume Builder modernized, simplified, and shortened the application process.

The new tool combines both the Resume Builder and ANSWER into one application providing a number of benefits to applicants.

Users with existing Resume Builder and ANSWER accounts should log in as "Registered Users" when first accessing the new Resume Builder/ANSWER application.

You will be prompted to verify/update your registration information. Your resume will not appear in the new builder, therefore, it is highly recommended that you save a current copy of your resume.

Note, your current resume will not be affected in the centralized Resumix database; it will be available for viewing and will not be deleted.

To learn more on the new Resume Builder/ANSWER tool, view FAQ's or learn how to apply for Army jobs, visit: <http://acpol.army.mil/> and click on Employment.

People



Johnny Baggett

Development Support Center, ran the Rocket City Marathon in Huntsville. John completed the 26.2 mile run in 4 hours and 29 minutes.



Terry Burton

Wendy graduated Cum Laude from the University of North Alabama in Florence on Dec. 11 with a bachelor's degree in Business and Marketing.

Pat Haas was selected as Chief of Chemical Demilitarization in December. Haas is currently serving as the Chief of Construction, Southern Dis-

Johnny Baggett, Engineering Directorate, bid the Center farewell in January. Before leaving he wrote: "I have really enjoyed meeting and working with many of you and wish each of you the best in your careers."

On Dec. 11 **John Buckley**, Professional



John Buckley

Terry Burton was selected as the supervisory civil engineer, chief, PMCTR Team for Chemical Demilitarization for Huntsville Center in January.

Wendy Graham, Contracting Directorate, gradu-



Wendy Graham



Pat Haas

Chemical Demilitarization, retired in December. In his farewell e-mail he said: "As I leave for retirement, I



Jerry Kresge

child Emma Elizabeth.

Charles Lee, Installation Support, also retired in Jan. In his last statement to Huntsville Center he said, "What can I say.. It has been great. I have enjoyed my tour with Huntsville Center. Thanks."

Sandy Lipsey joined the Bluegrass Resident Office as an administrative as-

trict, in Iraq and will assume his new responsibilities upon his return to Huntsville Center.

Brett Henderson, son of Sue and Jerial Henderson, Project Management, Installation Support, was named Police Officer of the Year in Arab, Ala.

Jerry Kresge,

retired in December. In his farewell e-mail he said: "As I leave for retirement, I wanted to make sure I thanked you for your time and service. It has been an honor working with you."

On Dec. 2

Marie Krieg, Logistics Management Directorate, welcomed her first grand-



Brett Henderson



Emma Elizabeth Krieg

Buddy Winners

1st Place: **Ben Otey** and **Keshia Appkins**

2nd Place: **Sarah McGraw**, **Michelle Crull** and **Millie Reed**

3rd Place: **Tracy Phillips** and **Sandy Wood**

Performance

Johnnie Arnold, Professional Development Support Center

Judy Armstrong, Professional Development Support Center

Mary Jo Ball, Professional Development Support Center

Betty Batts, Professional Development Support Center

John Buckley, Professional Development Support Center

Beverly Carr, Professional Development Support Center

Nellie Sue Frith, Professional Development Support Center

Donna Gravette, Professional Development Support Center

Rebecca L. Halbrooks, Professional Development Support Center

Diane Hollingshead, Professional Development Support Center

Janie Hughes, Professional Development Support Center

Hugh Lacy, Professional Development Support Center

Marilyn Lang, Professional Development Support Center

Development Support Center

Awards

Pages



Charles Lee

sistant on Jan. 11. Before joining the Corps, Sandy worked for the 8th Army in Korea.

Recent Information Management retiree, **Camille Pinto**, passed away. The Center regrets her loss.



Camille Pinto

Herbert

Plyler, Safety Office, retired in November. In a good-bye e-mail to the Center he said, "I appreciate and value each of you and wanted to say thanks."

Brandon Price, Installation Support, graduated from UAH Dec. 17. He earned a degree in Civil Engineering, and began his internship with the Facility Repair and Renewal Team in In-



Herbert Plyler

stallation Support.

Amber Shaw, daughter of **Jannette Jones**, Resource Management Office, gave birth to Steven Sloan Shaw II on Nov. 5. Shaw also recently graduated from UAH with a degree in chemistry and biology.

Warrant Officer **Calvin Spivey**, husband of Contract Specialist Vicky Spivey, deployed to Iraq with the 703rd



Brandon Price



WO Calvin Spivey

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Tony Torres

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Main Support Battalion from Fort Stewart, Ga. in January.

Jennifer Stierwalt, daughter of **Mike Stierwalt**, Installation Support, graduated Cum Laude from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. She was commissioned as a military intelligence of-



Mike Stovall

ficer but will delay active duty for medical school.

Mike Stovall

has assumed the position of Deputy for Programs and Technical Management. Mike also received a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Alabama on Dec. 18.

Tony Torres was named the new Systems Engineering Division chief in January.

Huntsville Center veteran **Jim Wilson**, Engineering Director, also re-



Jim Wilson

ards

Special Act

- Brenda Knight**, Engineering Directorate
- Kathryn Simmons**, Contracting
- Brenda Knight**, Engineering Directorate

On-the-Spot

- Richard Baker**, Engineering Directorate
- Annette Biddle**, Contracting

Kathyreen Conway, Engineering Directorate

April Deuel, Executive Office

Margie Reed, Executive Office

Morgan Ruther, Engineering Directorate

Gregory Stutts, Engineering Directorate

Time-Off

Dawn Scott, Contracting

HNC celebrates success of CFC campaign

Huntsville Center's Combined Federal Campaign was a great success.

Five fundraising activities, Oct. 4 through Nov. 26, and other events involving 315 employees netted a total of \$79,835.55, surpassing the \$75,000 goal.

The second annual "Ride for a Cause" on Oct. 16 raised \$295. Volunteers included **Yazmina Gerousis**, chairperson, **Jamie Miernik**, Alabama Bicycle Coalition President and civilian coordinator, **Todd Watts**, Dimitri Gerousis, Richard Dougherty, **April Rafael-Adams**, **Karen Schofield**, **Bonnie Wilson**, **Kristi Javins**, and Jackie Whitaker.

The second event, the tasty Krispy Kreme doughnut sale, brought in \$400. **Karan Dougherty**, **Sandy Oliver** and **Debra Rice** came in bright and early to sell doughnuts.

The Jail fundraiser really brought a laugh to the Center. Presiding judges were: **Margaret Simmons**, **Chris Wood**, **Emily**

Baine, **Chuck Williams**, **Lou Antonacci** and Supreme Justice, **Col. John D. Rivenburgh**. The event, organized by **Todd Watts**, chairperson, raised an additional \$500.

The Chili Cook-off and Bingo raised \$750 as lunchtime events. After much tasting and re-tasting the winners were **Judy Smith** – Most Unusual, **Rachel Sawyers** – Hottest and **Rose Barton** – Best Tasting. Judges for the Chili Cook-off were **Col. John D. Rivenburgh**, **Lt. Col. David Diehl**, **James Cox**, **Brenda Hatley**, and **Donna Rovere**.

During the campaign, magnetic "Support Our Troops" ribbons were sold bringing in another \$900 for the CFC campaign.

To celebrate the campaign's great success and to honor those volunteers that made it possible, an appreciation ceremony was held Jan. 10. The following were some of those recognized:



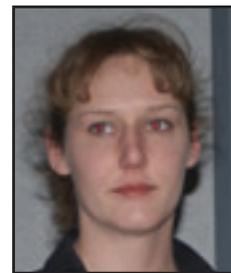
April Deuel



Karan Dougherty



Anita Loyd



Audrey Nore



Debra Rice



Rachel Sawyers



Mindy Shelton



Kelly VanSandt

Black History Month

The Commander's Special Emphasis Committee is preparing events for the entire Center in celebration of Black History Month. The schedule of events is as follows:

- Feb. 10, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., cafeteria, Black History Month Kick-off Program, James Mitchell, Professional Development Support Center, will speak on "Blacks in The Military."
 - Feb. 15, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., location to be announced, brown bag discussion on "The Souls of Black Folk" by W.E. DuBoise.
 - Feb. 24, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., cafeteria, Jeopardy based on black history facts and tidbits.
- More information will be coming via e-mails, flyers and the plasma screen in the front lobby.

Afghanistan deployment proves interesting experience for Huntsville Center employee

By Joan Burns

Fred Wissel knew he was about to make a decision that could change his life. He had thought about the decision for weeks. Working in Iraq or Afghanistan could be an interesting experience, he reasoned.

Wissel's instinct to remain safe was strong. "I didn't want to end up a hurt or dead hero," he said. But his desire to help others was more compelling.

Like many other Corps of Engineers employees, Wissel made the decision to trade his relatively safe life as a project manager at Huntsville Center for the unknown, perhaps risky life working as a project manager in Afghanistan.

Wissel decided to join Operation Enduring Freedom. He made the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan District his own.

That mission is to improve the quality of life for the people of Afghanistan whose lives have been critically altered by the more than 25 years of war and civil unrest in the country; and to improve the quality of life for American Soldiers who serve there.

The Afghanistan Engineer District (AED), headquartered in Kabul, is supported by more than 80 Corps of Engineers civilian volunteers.

The three major program areas are the U.S. Forces Program, the Afghan National Army (ANA) Program, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Reconstruction of Afghanistan Program.

Upon reporting for duty in Kabul, Wissel found that he had been assigned to a job in the actual construction of barracks for ANA's military personnel.

His immediate response was, "I'm



Fred Wissel watches during weapons familiarization training in Afghanistan.

not a construction person and I feel I would be of more benefit to AED in a project management position."

His assignment was subsequently changed to program management in the design/build area, a job more appropriate to his expertise.

Like his job at Huntsville Center, Wissel's responsibilities in Kabul involved coordination of technical engineering personnel, project scheduling, contract negotiation and funds management for AED projects.

His job skills and experience served him well since the Corps' Afghanistan Engineer District is helping develop the infrastructure for an effective, functional Afghanistan National Army. And to execute this mission, the U.S. Forces must have facilities for troops.

One of many projects supporting the AED mission is the repair of airport runways. Unexploded ordnance left from the Russian conflict litters the ground along the barbed wire-lined perimeter of the airport's runways. Runways are in a serious state of disrepair.

Additional projects are construction of bases for brigades, hospitals and training facilities. "The work is varied and interesting," Wissel explains.

A typical workday began at 7 a.m. and ended around 8 p.m. six days each week. Wissel's day, however, began at 5 a.m. to accommodate sharing of bathroom facilities located down the hall from the room he shared with two other people.

On Friday working hours were from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., giving a few hours off for recreation such as volleyball and cook outs.

Wissel has volunteered to return to Afghanistan for an additional four-month tour. The decision to return was not as dramatic as his last decision to deploy because he has found a special kind of satisfaction in his work there.

"I believe that I did the right thing although I will be the first to admit that I miss the good, normal life that I gave up to come over here (Afghanistan)," he said.

He has since found out his assignment for a second tour will be continuing with the same projects to help build facilities for the U.S. Forces.

Wissel is committed to the mission of the Corps of Engineers in Afghanistan. "If we didn't care about the people of Afghanistan, we would not be there. We are there to improve the quality of life for the people," he said.

New rules for travel comp time developing

Conditions under which federal employees may earn compensatory time off for official travel during non-business hours are laid out in interim rules published by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in today's Federal Register.

OPM Director Kay Coles James said the new rules, mandated by provisions in the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act of 2004, allow specific categories of federal employees to earn compensatory (comp) time for travel during uncompensated, non-work hours.

Employees who receive any form of compensation for the hours in question during the official travel period may not also earn compensatory time off for travel for the same period.

"The new rules will now allow federal employees to be credited with time off for uncompensated periods of official travel that occur during non-work hours," said James. "This is a benefit for federal employees, not often available in the private sector, and these regulations implement legislation passed

by Congress late last year. I appreciate the valuable input provided by employees and stakeholders throughout the development of the rules, especially

Corps officials have not yet determined how these changes will be implemented using the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System.

from NTEU President Colleen Kelley."

Comp time for travel rules were effective January 28, 2005, and provide a number of definitions and conditions, including "travel" and "travel status," which individuals must meet to be eligible for this new form of time off from work.

For instance, travel status is defined

as the time an employee actually spends traveling between the official duty station and a temporary duty station.

Travel status also includes the "usual waiting time" that precedes or interrupts travel. Usual waiting times vary and can depend on a number of factors, including whether the travel is for a domestic or international flight.

Authorization for providing compensatory time off to traveling federal employees is contained in provisions of the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act of 2004.

Rules are still being developed covering how and if compensatory time is earned for such commonplace occurrences as layovers for connecting flights and weather-related flight delays.

In addition, the rules state agencies may allow employees to accumulate compensatory time in increments of 6 minutes or 15 minutes. Employees will forfeit accrued comp time not used within 26 pay periods (52 weeks) of it being earned.

For further details visit: www.opm.gov.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

