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Chief reports on New Orleans 'dewatering'

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Army's senior engineer described ongoing efforts to "dewater" New Orleans following hurricanes Katrina and Rita during a Sept. 28 House subcommittee hearing here.

Hurricane Rita's storm surge defeated the city's levee system Sept. 23 and reflooded areas that had been submerged and then pumped dry following Hurricane Katrina, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Army chief of engineers, reported to members of a U.S. House

of Representatives appropriations subcommittee.

However, water levels in a key navigation canal near downtown New Orleans "have dropped by more than five feet" in recent days, the general said.

"We are once again pumping the water out of the 9th Ward and the St. Bernard Parish," Strock said. About 2,900 Corps of Engineers employees are deployed in New Orleans, he noted, with some engineers tasked to repair damaged levees.

Strock said water-quality levels are being monitored during pumping operations that "will remove most, if

not all, of the water" from currently submerged sections of New Orleans. Any residual water shouldn't impact on debris removal and other recovery operations, he said.

The Mississippi River is now open for navigation, the general also said. Traffic on one section of the river near where it enters the Gulf is only permitted during daylight hours as missing or storm-damaged buoys are being replaced, he said. Other work is being conducted to evaluate and reopen other area waterways, he added.

See Chief on Page 11

Women employees make 'habit' of building homes for needy

By **Kim Gillespie**
Public Affairs Office

A group of Huntsville Center workers make a "habit" of volunteering in the community. For the fifth time in six years, a group of Huntsville Center employees spent a day supporting Habitat for Humanity of Madison County's annual fall Building Blitz.

Habitat for Humanity of Madison County, a Combined Federal Campaign agency, is an affiliate project of Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit, religious-based organization that

seeks to eliminate poverty by providing housing to the needy.

Habitat provides the land and management for the task of building homes, and then uses volunteers through churches, businesses and organizations to provide the funds and manpower to build new homes.

The volunteers from Huntsville Center have come from an informal group of female employees who get together to participate in local activities, usually on evenings or weekends.



Valerie Clinkinbeard, Engineering Directorate, works during the Habitat for Humanity blitz build in Huntsville Sept. 18.

See Habitat on Page 5

Commander writes from Mississippi

I write this from Camp Shelby, Miss., where I am serving as the deputy Joint Task Force Katrina engineer.

We are working the Department of Defense portion of the recovery effort.

Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Sailors working arm-in-arm with our Corps of Engineers folks, National Guardsmen and civilians are making a real difference. They have rescued survivors; provided water, ice and food; established security; brought comfort and saved animals. They closed holes in the levees and worked diligently to pump New Orleans dry. Many of these great Americans had lost their homes and places of work, while others worked with limited communications in cramped quarters, faced with exposure to dust, mud, heat and an overwhelming stench.

Huntsville Center has responded magnificently to every call our nation

has made. Our Coalition Munitions Clearance mission has made Iraq a significantly safer place. Working toward eliminating chemical weapons by building a demilitarization plant in Siberia and supporting missile defense construction in remote areas helps make our world a better place to live.

Our team members fill critical positions in our Gulf Region Division and our Afghanistan Engineer District. Now we are marching in response to the terror brought on by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Folks are providing logistical support, performing quality control for roofing and debris cleanup and serving in administrative roles. The mission

won't end with the first go around of volunteers. The quantities of debris and the need for housing and temporary buildings will far exceed those of Hurricane Andrew back in 1992. Look at your schedules and see if you can serve.

In closing, after seeing the carnage left in the wake of these terrible storms; we are so very fortunate to live out of the primary path of this storm.

Until you have been on the ground in New Orleans, Gulfport, Slidell, or East Texas, you just don't know how fortunate you are. Every night I thank the

Lord for my family, my friends, my home and my job.

I ask you to remember all those deployed and all those impacted by this storm and all those to come.



Col. John D. Rivenburgh

The Bulletin asks:

What have you done to help the hurricane victims?



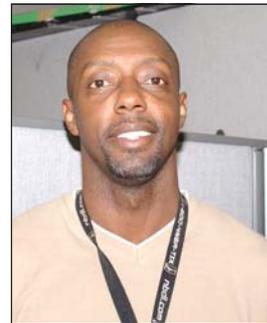
"I went through my clothes and donated what I didn't need."

April Deuel
Administrative Assistant,
Executive Office



"My church, Ascension Lutheran in Huntsville, takes collections on Sundays, donates clothes and has adopted a family in Mississippi."

Joyce Watley
Contractor, Information
Management Directorate



"Waiting for a tasker and will be deploying next month."

Spencer O'Neal
Project Manager
Ordnance and
Explosives Directorate



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

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BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. John D. Rivenburgh
Chief, Public Affairs..... Kim Gillespie
Editor..... Debra Valine
Editorial Assistant Joan Burns

Corps' continuing reconstruction efforts in Iraq



Photo by Jim Gordon

An electrical substation under construction outside Dohuk, Iraq, Aug. 20. The substation will supply electrical load to several dozen area villages. This project is managed and quality-controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Photo by Norris Jones

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Mark E. O'Neill, 3rd Infantry Division, talks to residents Sept. 14 about reconstruction efforts in their community and how things are changing.

Combined Federal Campaign

Kickoff speakers urge 'Compassion in Action'

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — "Compassion in Action" sums up what the Combined Federal Campaign is all about.

Each year the fund-raising campaign raises money to help local, national and international charitable agencies.

Federal employees and contractors are provided the opportunity to make either one time cash donations or donations through payroll deduction to their charities of choice.

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign's goal for the 2005 fund-raising effort is to raise \$1.8 million. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center goal is \$79,818. The campaign officially runs from Oct. 3 - Nov. 11. Last year the Huntsville Center raised \$79,835.55.

At the kickoff event

Sept. 20, Huntsville Center's Acting Commander Lt. Col. David Diehl spoke of the Corps of Engineers' efforts to rebuild New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

"The Corps of Engineers is very active in hurricane recovery," Diehl said. He acknowledged the generous

contributions already made to the hurricane recovery effort and contributions to favorite charities throughout the year. "During the Combined Federal Campaign, I challenge you to keep that soft heart when making donations, and keep those who are not as fortunate in your hearts."

The Corps of Engineers has an agreement in place with the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) for individuals who want to contribute to Corps of Engineers employees and their families who were victims of Hurricane Katrina. Anyone may contribute to the fund.

Contributions may be made by check or credit card, or through the CFC. FEEA's CFC number is 1234.

To make a donation to the CFC organization of your choice, see your section key worker or call Freddie Shepherd at 895-1508.



Photo by Debra Valine

Huntsville Center Acting Commander Lt. Col. David Diehl challenges attendees at the kickoff event of the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign at Redstone Arsenal Sept. 20.

Testing explores using water, fiberglass as barriers

Tests show water walls, fiberglass barriers may be viable replacements for aluminum barriers

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

Barricades used on munitions response sites to protect the public in the event of an accidental detonation were originally designed to be constructed from aluminum. Aluminum was chosen because it did not interfere with the magnetometers used to detect the munitions.

However, today most detection equipment being used can detect metals other than steel and the aluminum barricades interfere with this equipment. So, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center, is trying to find a suitable substitute for these barriers.

Tests performed Aug. 30-Sept. 2 at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., explored using water and fiberglass barriers as possible alternatives to aluminum.

“While we ran these tests down at the Air Force Research Lab, the people



Courtesy Photo

Bill Heard, ERDC, and Carmen Lugo, ERDC, install witness panels around the Waterwall in preparation for Test 1. The panels allow testers to determine whether fragments went through the Waterwall.

who actually designed and set up the tests for us were from the Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss.,” said Michelle Crull, a senior structural engineer in Huntsville Center’s Advanced Technology Division.

“When we are out on a munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) site, we have two different detonation scenarios. One, when they are digging and — God forbid — something should cause the munition to detonate — that is called an accidental detonation.

“Second, if they find the munition, the preferred method is to blow it in place, but sometimes it is too close to the public, so you have to do something to mitigate the detonation. We have done water tests before, and the hardest part about water is to contain it. It can look like you are on a flat surface, but you are not.”

Test 1 tested a commercial off-the-shelf product — the Waterwall by CINTEC America — to determine if it would defeat the fragments from an 81mm mortar, Crull said. If successful, this product would be used to mitigate the effects of an intentional detonation.

“I had originally seen this Waterwall in a magazine and thought that might work for us,” Crull said. “It comes



Courtesy Photo

Carmen Lugo, ERDC, left, is shown with Michelle Crull, Huntsville Center, at the test site.

See Test on Page 9



Photos by Kim Gillespie

Shown with the new owner of the Habitat home, Selenia Parks (right), are Huntsville Center volunteers Patti Berry, Missile Defense Directorate; and Kellie Williams, Engineering Directorate.



Margaret Simmons, Office of Counsel, places insulation panels during the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build Sept. 18.

Habitat

Continued from Page 1

The idea to volunteer for a Habitat project first came about in 2000, when Habitat sponsored a "Women's Build," using all female volunteers. A dozen Huntsville Center females banded together, took annual leave and offered their services for a day.

"We didn't participate the next year because the fall building blitz is usually the last two weeks of September, and it was just too difficult with the end of the fiscal year and close-outs," said Valerie Clinkenbeard, of the Engineering Directorate, who has participated each year the group has supported Habitat.

In addition to Clinkenbeard, this year's volunteers from Huntsville Center included Emily Baine, Office of Counsel; Patti Berry, Missile Defense Directorate; Kim Gillespie, Public Affairs; Suzanne Murdock, Engineering Directorate; Sally Parsons, Installation Support Directorate; Margaret Simmons, Office of Counsel; Marilyn Scott, Engineering Directorate; and Kellie Williams, Safety Office.

Murdock and Williams brought

along their sons, Kyle and Corey, and former Huntsville Center employee Sandy McAnnally also participated as part of the Corps group.

The Corps of Engineers is associated with construction, so a group of Corps employees volunteering to help build houses comes as no surprise to most people. But when the group is all-female, it does raise some eyebrows.

According to Clinkenbeard, "One year, we showed up and they needed tile installed. We were laying the tile so quickly, we got ahead of the guy cutting it," she related.

"I started cutting too, and then we formed a production line, and had the job finished in no time at all. They ended up sending us over to another house which we finished on our own," she said.

Murdock added, "We just had to gain their trust."

Each year's volunteer activities may vary depending on the volunteer day in the two-week build and the stage of the home, but none require any special gear beyond the recommended work gloves, sturdy shoes and a hammer.

This year, the group volunteered on the second day, so the work focused on

wrapping the frame, and installing hurricane brackets and windows.

"I think we do our best work on the interior, but it just depends on what day works best for Habitat and your group. This year we had to get a weekend day because of the end of the fiscal year," explained Murdock.

Marie Yeager, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Madison County, said she was hoping to coordinate another "Women's Build," if the Corps employees thought they could help support it again.

"The 'Women's Build' was a new concept when it was tried the first year, but then there was a transition in directors, so it just didn't get sustained," Yeager explained. "I'm hoping we can put together another 'Women's Build' in the spring (2006). It was such a great idea."

"Holding the Women's Build in the spring would be a much better time for us. We usually get around a dozen volunteers, but with our growing list of interested employees and a different time of year, we could probably get more," added Murdock, and proving that good habits are hard to break.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' disaster relief workers in Port Allen, La., live in a two-story dormitory built on a trio of barges, called the Corps' quarterboats.

Floatin' on the river

By William Noel

Aside from a couple of casinos and the motels around them, Port Allen, La., is a picturesque little Southern town where modest houses with neatly kept yards line streets overspread by ancient Live Oaks. Hurricane Katrina may have missed this town across the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge, but the relief effort has definitely made its presence known there. Just over the levee along the east side of town you'll find the floating home of nearly 400 Army Corps of Engineers and other federal workers involved in the post-Katrina storm relief effort. Their home is the Corps' quarterboats, a trio of barges with two-story dormitories built on them.

OK, so the staterooms are 12-by-13 feet with four hard bunks and a

bathroom that measures 5-by-7 feet. When you're worn out after a 14-hour day even those beds feel good. The incessant air conditioning makes the floor feel like ice and relieves the humidity that sticks to you like a coat of fresh paint.

Step outside and your glasses fog instantly. We have access to the Internet using a bank of computers on a lower deck. We have satellite TV in the galley and lounges. Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn never had it this good.

Just getting to the quarterboat is an adventure. Take the I-10 bridge west across the Mississippi River and guide right onto State Route 1 North. At the first light, hang a hard right U-turn onto the service road.

Turn left past Auto Zone, the only building in that short first block (and a store we never see open because we leave before it opens at 8 a.m. and return after

it closes at 6 p.m.).

Past the third stop sign you're looking at the Mississippi River levee, a wall of earth that rises sharply in front of you. Using the one-lane gravel road, climb the levee until you reach the top and turn left.

Go for a hundred feet to the orange traffic cone, then go over the side and drive along the concrete wall lining the levee until you reach the rutted gravel parking lot.

The directions sound simple enough until you reach the orange traffic cone. That's when you discover that the levee wall is sloped at a 30-degree angle until it has dropped some 30 feet in altitude. I rode the brakes all the way fearing the car would roll over.

Tire tracks in the grass at the bottom guide you to the parking area where you discover that you're on a 200-foot-wide plateau and only half-way to the river.

The water is still another 30 feet down at the other end of a gravel path that slopes downward at a 45-degree angle all the way to the narrow gangplank. Looking down that slope — and watching how people's shoes sank into the gravel — made me wish I'd packed a far smaller suitcase.

My roommates are all from the Corps' New Orleans District. Their families were evacuated to sites well to the north during the storm and are awaiting news about when they can return home.

One knows his home has been flooded. Another's home is in the dry zone two houses away from the levee break on the 17th Street canal. A third lives outside the city and is able to return home five days later. They rise at 5 a.m., a half-hour ahead of my alarm and just in time to be on the pumps dewatering the city right after sunrise. They turn-in after I'm asleep.

You never know who you will meet on the quarterboat. Some folks from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) joint operations center in Baton Rouge prefer sleeping here over the tent city a mile or so down the road where workers sleep on Army cots.

Once while controlling my slide down the gravel path I make a wisecrack about it being a good argument for an escalator and discover that the person next to me is a Marine Corps two-star general.

Army generals and their staff officers are a common sight because the Corps command center for this area is aboard the MV Mississippi, a massive five-story-high tugboat tied against the river side of this flotilla. From time-to-time I catch sight of a Navy rear admiral who is also assigned to the FEMA center.

It's breakfast time again. Red lights illuminate the outside walkways as I make my way to the galley. A few minutes of CNN from one of the large TVs at the end of the dining area is my daily connection with the outside world as I eat. I'm surrounded by a sea of people in matching red Corps Emergency Operations shirts. They're from just

about every Corps district in the country. Nobody here cares what a person's position is back home. We're all teammates in the purpose that brought us here.

Just before departing I steal a quiet moment at the front end of the galley barge where I enjoy the sight of dawn's first rays lighting the sky behind the floodlit buildings of Baton Rouge. I pray silently for God's blessing on our work in the day ahead as we work to help the victims of this great disaster.

Minutes later I climb the levee, get into my rental car and join the parade of workers heading off to their various duties in the hurricane relief effort. Darkness will have wrapped itself around my floating home again before I return.

No, Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn never had it this good. But at least they got to see their raft in the daylight.

Editor's note: William Noel, of Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, is deployed for hurricane disaster relief.

Huntsville Center employees deployed for hurricane relief

Col. John Rivenburgh, Deputy Task Force Commander, Camp Shelby, Miss.
Raul Alonso, Vicksburg, Miss.
Michelle Bannister, Vicksburg, Miss.
Joann Buchanan, Vicksburg, Miss.
Kenneth Crutch, Baton Rouge, La.
James Dunn, Vicksburg, Miss.
Arkie Fanning, Vicksburg, Miss.
Bruce Forsberg, Port Allen L&D, La.
Brett Frazier, Vicksburg, Miss.
Mark French, Vicksburg, Miss.
Anthony Gibson, Vicksburg, Miss.
Jim Harris, Vicksburg, Miss.
Demetra Hill, Baton Rouge, La.
Tommy Hunt, Baton Rouge, La.
Bill Johnson, Vicksburg, Miss.
Hugh Lacy, Baton Rouge, La.
Larry McIntosh, Vicksburg, Miss.
James Miller, Vicksburg, Miss.
Suzanne Murdock, Vicksburg, Miss.
William F. Noel, Port Allen L&D, La.
Audrey Nore, Port Allen L&D, La.
Brandon Price, Port Allen L&D, La.
Margie Reed, Vicksburg, Miss.
Garry Runyans, Vicksburg, Miss.
Susanna Schorn, Vicksburg, Miss.
Chris Shepherd, Vicksburg, Miss.
Laura Stiegler, Vicksburg, Miss.
Christopher Tew, Vicksburg, Miss.
Maryann Wentworth, Vicksburg, Miss.

Operation Blue Roof - Louisiana



Besides homes, the roofs of schools and public facilities can qualify for temporary blue roofs. This wing of St. Margaret Mary Catholic School in Slidell, La., would normally not qualify for a Blue Roof. However, because the metal roof was put on over a shingle roof and it could be removed, it will qualify. Other wings of the building have been covered.



School wing after the blue roof is applied. School resumed at St. Mary Margaret Catholic School on Sept. 19. Public schools in St. Tammany Parish resume Oct. 3.

Photos by William Noel

Retiree remembers old-fashioned ways to get job done

By Joan Burns
Public Affairs Office

Do you know what a mimeograph machine is?" Jim Quinn asks.

After 52 years of government service, 48 years of which were with the Corps of Engineers in the area of specifications and criteria documents, Quinn looks back and remembers how it was then. "I really appreciate today's computers and the Internet," he said.

Quinn talks about the long hours



Jim Quinn

administrative staff spent producing copies of project specifications the old-fashioned way. The text was typed on a special stencil

of waxed paper and then the specification pages – sometimes 50 to 200 for each of about 100 bound volumes – were reproduced using the mimeograph machine. Using a cylinder filled with ink to produce copies of the specifications, the process resulted in ink-stained fingers for all, including Quinn himself.

Quinn's introduction to the world of specifications came after he graduated from Kansas State University. That's when he went to work for the Kansas City District, entering what would become a long career as a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Quinn learned a lot about construction specifications in the yearlong training program at Kansas City District. With the program completed, he left the District to work as a field engineer for a general contractor at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"When I returned three years later to work in the the Kansas City District's Estimates and Specifications Branch, I

had a much better concept of how construction is accomplished and I was able to see specifications from a different view point," Quinn said.

After 10 years at the Kansas City District, Quinn took his expertise to a position in the Office of the Chief of Engineers in Washington, D.C. His work there involved guide specifications for construction and design criteria documents and coordination with other government agencies that were using the documents.

He explains, "Criteria documents form the basis for guide specifications; guide specifications are used by a designer to produce project specifications, and project specifications establish construction contract requirements. The designers of a new facility at an Army installation draw on both the criteria documents and the guide specification for their work."

A large part of the criteria documents program was moved to Huntsville Center in 1979. Along with the program came the resident expert – Jim Quinn – and he has continued to work with that program in the Huntsville Center since that time. Working with guide specification and criteria documents has been an interesting part of Quinn's life. But there are other areas he particularly enjoys.

"My wife June and I belong to a travel organization called the Friendship Force. One of the reasons I have continued to work is that we love to travel, and travel is a rather expensive habit," Quinn said. "We have visited more than a dozen countries."

Friendship Force is an international exchange-type organization whose members travel in groups throughout the world meeting people, sharing experiences and learning each other's lifestyles. The Quinns' travels have included visits to New Zealand, Kenya, Brazil, China, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, and Ireland.

The two-week visit to Kenya was one of the most interesting experiences. The Quinns spent one week visiting wild

game parks all over the country, and during the other week, they stayed in the home of a family in Nairobi. Their host, a member of the Nairobi Parliament, lived with his family inside a compound with a one-man guard house at the entrance. The family members were very concerned with the welfare of people in the district. At meal times, there was always an extra place set at the table – just in case someone might come by.

"We were intrigued by the training classes for residents of the West Kenya district. Our hostess taught a class in tailoring. She was such an accomplished seamstress, she could recreate any garment simply by looking at a picture," related Quinn. The training classes were held in a 10-room shed-like building located behind the main residence where class members stayed for the duration of the classes.

The Quinns would like to return to New Zealand. "New Zealand is a beautiful place, especially South Island and Christchurch. The mountains are very steep, not so high, but very steep. Cattle on the hillsides look as if they might fall off," Quinn said. "We were in Christchurch on the day of a ladies' hat contest held in conjunction with an important horse race. I had permission to photograph the winner and we knew the limousine driver. As a result, we were invited by the hat contest winner and her escort to ride in the limousine with them the few miles from the contest venue to the race track."

His hands no longer ink-stained, Quinn is retiring from federal service. He's not worried about having too much free time on his hands, since he will become a "domestic engineer" doing "whatever my wife says," he quips. He looks forward to spending more time with their three children and their 11 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

"Not to mention that there are still a lot of interesting places to see," Quinn said, his blue eyes brightening with anticipation.

Let PAO tell your hometown of your accomplishments

Have you recently been promoted? Received an award? Changed work assignments? Why not share the news of your accomplishments with the folks “back home.”

Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians alike can spread their good news through the Army and Air Force Hometown News Release Program.

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The Army and Air Force

Hometown News Service is a field operating agency headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. A small staff of Army and Air Force military and civilian personnel produces a variety of print and electronic news products highlighting the accomplishments and worldwide activities of Civilians, Soldiers and Airmen.

Last year, more than 750,000 individual news releases were distributed to the 14,000 newspapers, television and radio stations subscribing to Hometown’s free service.

The Hometown News program existed for more than 40 years, with the

Army running its program in Kansas City, Mo., and the Air Force running its program from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

The two operations were consolidated in San Antonio after a study by the Defense Audit Service.

The consolidation resulted in a savings of 35 personnel with a work force of 63 performing the mission previously done by 98 people. Automation and other efficiencies have resulted in downsizing the organization to its current strength of 42 people.

For more information, contact the Public Affairs Office at 895-1235.

Test

Continued from Page 4

rolled up. First you have to blow it up with air and then you add the water through a connection that you can hook up to a firehose. We put up witness panels to make sure nothing came through the water wall. If we are in the middle of a neighborhood, we need to know what distance we need to have and whether or not we need to evacuate the neighborhood. The next step in the test process will tell us that.

“Next, we would add a piece to the front of the Waterwall that will allow us to test the set-up we would actually use in the field and record the pressure that comes from the detonation.”

Test 2 was an arena test done to test the capabilities of several materials to defeat the fragments from a 155mm projectile, Crull said. Two sets of aluminum panels were included in this test to give a basis of comparison.

Two different types of fiberglass panels and a set of water-filled walls were tested. All systems defeated the fragments. Test 3 took one of the fiberglass panel systems tested in Test 2 and put it on an Open Front Barricade.

“In tests two and three, we were testing accidental detonations,” Crull

said. “We only use the barriers if the munition is in a populated area where we don’t have the required safety distance. We used aluminum in Test 2



Aluminum panels were used in Test 2 for a comparison with fiberglass and water walls.

for a comparison with fiberglass and water walls. We are testing to find a replacement for the aluminum. With the increased sensitivity of the detection equipment being used to find the munitions, the aluminum is picked up and interferes with the sensors.”

Crull said working with ERDC has been a really good fit. “A lot of what they do is force protection. Some of what they use for force protection

carries over to what we need to use for munitions detonation. And a lot of the things we discover during testing, ERDC can apply to force protection.

We sometimes partner and share the cost when it is something that we can both use. They like the water wall and are actually using it in some dining facilities for force protection.”

“Working with Michelle (Crull) has allowed us to gather additional data points on some of the

advanced composite materials we are developing to directly support the warfighter,” said Bill Heard, a research structural engineer for ERDC.

“Field experiments can be costly. Our work with Huntsville creates an opportunity to develop a product for their needs and further validate armoring concepts that will protect our troops; it’s just a really smart fit for both of us.”

Hawaii site picture perfect for range residue recycling facility

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

Against the backdrop of the Pacific Ocean, clear blue skies and palm trees, Hawaii's Big Island is probably the last place one would look to find a military range residue recycling facility. But the idea is not far-fetched.

A site visit to Hilo, Hawaii, by the Centralized Range Residue Recycling Facility (CR3F) Feasibility Study working group Aug. 30, identified a location nearly postcard perfect for a future recycling facility. The next step will be to prepare the actual feasibility study on the site.

"During our first visit to Hawaii the week of Feb. 14, the CR3F working group focused on meeting with the local Native Hawaiian Community and key staff members representing the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the National Advancement of Native Hawaiians to discuss the recycling facility concept and to participate in an initial site tour of potential recycling center locations on the island of Oahu," said Ben Otey, CR3F project manager.

"During this recent trip, we identified 185 acres of available land on the Big Island of Hawaii, owned and operated by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, as a potential site for a recycling facility," Otey said.

"We are excited about the success of identifying a potential location where persons from the Native Hawaiian community may be employed in this recycling facility that will process ordnance items after they have been dug, inspected and certified as being free of an explosive hazard."

The feasibility study is scheduled to be completed by mid-2007. "At that time, we will present this concept to the commanders at the active military installations who may benefit the most from these recycling facilities," Otey said.

"As of today, identifying appropriate lands is one of the most critical components of this study; we are confident we have been successful."

In 2002, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center, awarded a basic contract to Bering Sea Eccotech, an Alaska native corporation, to perform a feasibility study to determine the economic and environmental benefits of constructing a Centralized Range Residue Recycling Facility on native lands in Alaska, Hawaii and the Continental United States. The facilities would be operated by self-supporting businesses within

executive vice president, Bering Sea Eccotech.

"This is a unique opportunity for BSE to work with other Native Americans and Native Hawaiians to improve the environment, support American military readiness and provide economic opportunities."

Range Residue Recycling is the destruction or removal and proper disposition of military munitions i.e., (unexploded ordnance and munitions debris) and other range-related debris (i.e. target debris, military munitions packaging and crating material) to maintain or enhance operational range safety or prevent the accumulation of



Photo by Debra Valine

Mike Robinson, left, Land Management Division, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and Linda Chinn, chief, Land Management Division, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, discuss a potential site for a Centralized Range Residue Recycling Facility on Hawaii's Big Island with Elary Gromoff Jr., executive vice president of Bering Sea Eccotech, and Ben Otey, project manager from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Ala., Aug. 30.

native communities to process and recycle military scrap – range residue – from training and support activities.

"This project presents a great opportunity to provide economic growth that may improve the lives and livelihoods in Indian Country, Alaska Native communities and on Hawaiian Homelands," said Elary Gromoff Jr.,

such material from impairing or preventing operational range use.

Today, work is being performed to evaluate the feasibility of building recycling facilities on up to 14 potential sites: two in Alaska, two in Hawaii and 10 in the Continental United States.

See Hawaii on Page 11

University of Alabama in Huntsville hosts co-op employer event

Students of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) had an opportunity Sept. 22 to learn about local employers' engineering opportunities.

While not a job fair, local companies who participate in the cooperative (co-op) education program offered information on their programs in multiple disciplines.

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center representative Carol Dennis and Huntsville Center Human Capital Management chief, Toni Hamley, discussed the benefits of working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the students during UAH Co-op Employer Day Sept. 22 at the University.

Bryan Merry (above left), a co-op student in mechanical engineering at UAH, works for the Corps at the Mobile District resident engineer office at Redstone Arsenal. Merry



Bryan Merry, left, a co-op student in the Mobile District resident engineer office at Redstone Arsenal, is shown with Carol Dennis, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center representative for Huntsville Center.



Toni Hamley, right, Huntsville Center's Human Capital Management chief, explains the benefits of a career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to civil engineering student Thomas Bruce.

Photos by Joan Burns

offered first hand information to UAH students about his experiences working on construction projects.

"It was interesting working on the hurricane disaster relief team in Florida, and working on a new control tower project at Columbus Air force Base in Colo.," said Merry.

Chief

Continued from Page 1

Strock also said the engineers are implementing plans to reopen their New Orleans district office, which had been closed due to the recent storms.

The engineers are supporting Federal Emergency Management Agency efforts in New Orleans by providing debris removal, ice, water, and temporary power assistance, as well as temporary roofing and technical

expertise for housing needs, Strock said.

He estimated Corps of Engineers costs for support of hurricane-related FEMA projects in New Orleans now amount to about \$3 billion.

Hawaii

Continued from Page 10

The working group, made up of representatives from the Huntsville Center, Bering Sea Eccotech and SAIC, met in Honolulu Aug. 29 through Sept. 2 to visit potential building sites in Hawaii and review a list of Native American tribes that could be interested in operating the recycling facilities.

Phase 1 of the study involves surveying and developing a database of native groups, as well as conducting an initial screening based on available land and demographics of native groups and collecting range residue source information, such as quantity, regional locations and ammunition areas. Phase 1 also includes a second screening with schedules and cost estimates.

"We have taken the American Indian tribes that are in the Federal Register and we have screened them based on specific performance criteria down to 110 from 362," said Frank

Pickering, assistant vice president, Engineering and Infrastructure, Scientific Applications International Corporation.

"Then we took those tribes and screened forward and applied a more stringent set of criterion to narrow the field of candidates down to 44. From here we are going to take the field of 44, go into each tribe's specific demographic information and eventually reduce the field down to 10 from 44."

Phase 2 involves development of business plans for two selected native groups by fall 2005. The final business plans will rank and document the best qualified groups. The groups will then be notified and briefed on the business plans.

Phase 3, with an expected completion date of May 2007, includes approval of the final concept design of an operable facility and creation of design and building plans along with permits; agreements, procedures and approvals; and operation and maintenance manuals.

Awards

Lisa Gayman, OC
Special Act/Service

Lindsey Whitt, DE
On-the-Spot

Virginia Mitchell, CT
Special Act/Service

Ginger Gruber, CT
On-the-Spot

Georganne Ramsey, RM-B
On-the-Spot

Mae Parker, IS-SP
On-the-Spot

Anita Lloyd, IS
Special Act/Service

Phyllis McDonald, ED
On-the-Spot

Stell Robinson, ED
On-the-Spot

Mark Shore, ED
On-the-Spot

James T. Clark, ED
Special Act/Service

Robert Huie, ED
Special Act/Service

Annemarie Williams, ED
On-the-Spot

Gregory Stutts, ED
On-the-Spot

Charles Rollins, ED
Special Act/Service

Deborah Anderson, ED
On-the-Spot

Allen Ast, ED
On-the-Spot

Marcus Allen, ED
On-the-Spot

Susanna Schorn, ED
On-the-Spot

Dan Plugge, ED
On-the-Spot

Arnecia Bradley, ED
On-the-Spot

Kevin Healy, ED
Special Act/Service

Brian Spear, ED
On-the-Spot

Debra Edwards, ED
On-the-Spot

Marcus Searles, ED
On-the-Spot

Morgan Ruther, ED
On-the-Spot

Lary Quick, ED,
On-the-Spot

Kathyreen Conway, ED
On-the-Spot

James Staton, ED
On-the-Spot

Raul Alonso, ED
On-the-Spot

William Strong, ED
On-the-Spot

Jimmy Haywood, ED
On-the-Spot

Jason Adams, ED
On-the-Spot

Promotions

Arthur Martin, III, Chief of the
Operations Branch, Systems
Engineering Division, ED

Doyce K. Haynes, Lead Electrical
Engineer, Electronic Technology
Branch, ED

Charles W. Pregeant, Environmental
Engineer, Environmental Protection and Utility
Branch, ED

Andrew Blaisdell, Safety Engineer, Systems
Safety Branch, ED
Dorothy Lewis, Secretary, ED

Susanna Schorn, Civil Engineer,
Technical Management and Des Int
Branch, ED

Annemarie Williams, Secretary,
Environmental Protection and Utility
Branch, ED

CEHNC Annual Standards of Conduct Training

The remaining scheduled sessions for this year's annual standards of conduct training are listed below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
• Oct. 6	11 a.m.- noon	Command Conference Room
• Oct. 18	1-2 p.m.	Command Conference Room
• Nov. 10	11 a.m.- noon	Command Conference Room
• Nov. 15	1-2 p.m.	Command Conference Room

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