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Civil works budgeted \$4.8B in FY08

The President's Budget for fiscal year 2008 (FY08) transmitted to Congress on Feb. 5 includes \$4.871 billion in new federal funding for the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

John Paul Woodley Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, said, "This civil works budget is the highest ever to be forwarded to Congress, and it provides critical funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue to contribute to the nation's economic and environmental well being.

"The budget funds the planning, design, and construction of projects for the three main water resources mission areas of the Corps, which are commercial navigation, flood and coastal storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration, and gives priority to those projects that will provide a high return on the nation's investment," Woodley continued. "The budget also emphasizes the performance of existing Civil Works projects by funding their operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation at a level 9 percent higher than last year's budget," Woodley continued.

The Civil Works program additionally contributes to the protection of the nation's waters and wetlands; the restoration of sites contaminated as a result of the nation's early atomic weapons development program; and emergency preparedness for natural disasters.

The new federal funding in the Civil Works budget consists of \$3.889 billion from the general fund, \$735 million from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, \$209 million from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, \$37 million from Special Recreation User Fees, and \$1 million from Disposal Facilities User Fees.

The new federal funding will be distributed as follows among the appropriation accounts:

- \$2.471 billion for Operation & Maintenance (O&M).
- \$1.523 billion for Construction.
- \$260 million for Flood Control, Mississippi River, and Tributaries (MR&T).
- \$180 million for the Regulatory Program.
- \$177 million for expenses.
- \$130 million for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.
- \$90 million for Investigations.
- \$40 million for Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies.

Other sources of funding are estimated at \$535 million, which includes federal funding of \$81 million from the Coastal Wetlands Restoration Trust Fund and \$9 million in Permanent Appropriations. It also includes \$445 million paid by such non-federal interests as the Rivers and Harbors Contributed Funds.

The FY08 O&M account is funded at \$2.471 billion, a \$213 million (more than 9 percent) increase from the FY07 budget. The budget emphasizes performance of existing projects by focusing on the maintenance of key commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, hydropower, and other facilities. This funding level enables immediate maintenance and repair needs to be met, as well as financing rehabilitation work and initiatives such as asset management.

Among existing navigation projects, the FY08 budget gives priority to the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of harbors and waterway segments that support high volumes of commercial traffic, in-



Water navigation and environmental preservation and restoration are just two of the many missions covered by the Corps of Engineers' civil works budget. (Left photos from the Digital Visual Library, right photo by F.T. Eyre, HECSA)

cluding the nation's three busiest inland waterways – the Ohio River, the Mississippi River, and the Illinois Waterway. The budget also funds harbors that support significant commercial fishing, subsistence, or public transportation benefits.

The FY08 budget funds several activities in the O&M budget that have been traditionally funded in the construction budget. Transferring these activities to and funding them in the O&M program, as first proposed in the FY07 budget, will improve accountability and oversight, reflect the full cost of operating and maintaining existing projects, and reflect an integrated investment strategy. The activities are:

- Rehabilitation of navigation and hydropower infrastructure, where the extent of the work is not large enough to be considered a replacement.
- Endangered Species Act compliance at operating projects.
- Construction of facilities, projects, or features (including islands and wetlands) to use materials dredged during federal navigation maintenance activities.
- Mitigation of impacts on shorelines due to the operation and maintenance of federal navigation activities.

The FY08 construction budget is a performance-based budget. It uses objective, performance-based criteria to guide the allocation of funding towards the highest performing construction projects. Three key performance measures are the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio (BCR); risk to human safety; and, for aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, that the project must

either cost-effectively help restore a regionally or nationally significant ecosystem that has become degraded as a result of a Civil Works project, or must be cost-effective and require the Corps' expertise in modifying an aquatic regime.

In recent years, many more construction projects have been authorized, initiated, and continued than can be built efficiently. The funding of projects with low economic and environmental returns, and of projects that are not within the main mission areas of the Corps has postponed benefits from the most worthy projects and significantly reduced overall program performance.

To remedy this and achieve greater value from the Civil Works construction program, the budget funds 69 construction projects including those that provide the highest net economic and environmental returns on the nation's investment; that address significant risk to human safety; and dam safety assurance, seepage control, and static instability efforts. They include six national priority projects; 11 dam safety assurance, seepage control, and static instability correction projects; and 52 other continuing projects.

The 69 funded construction projects comprise 43 flood and coastal storm damage reduction projects, 17 navigation projects, six aquatic ecosystem restoration projects (one related to a funded navigation project), and four hydropower replacement projects.

The six national priority construction projects are:

- The New York and New Jersey Harbor deepening project (\$91 million).

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Insights

Emotional healing can be a three-step process

(My friend Richard Kuhlbars, a retired Army colonel and chaplain, shared with me the message he has discovered about healing emotional wounds. His insights are partly autobiographical, partly from years of ministry to Soldiers and their families. He has developed effective programs to help people overcome the emotional traumas many experience in life. This month I asked him to share his message of healing the soul with you. — Col. Sherrill Munn, Chaplain, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

People today are hurting. No one goes through life without emotional scars. Most of us carry deep and lasting wounds. Some hurt eludes every resource and piece of advice we know. Sometimes the wounding is so deep it remains unspeakable to another human being, now or ever. Even if they can be framed in words, the words themselves cannot convey the intensity, depth, and pain within their core being.

Many suffer with a slow and silent wounding on a day-to-day basis behind and beneath their otherwise pleasant exteriors. Others suffer traumatic or devastating experiences that occur violently and instantaneously.

In either case, these experiences wound their souls. Deciding to heal the soul is an acknowledgement that one wants to move toward a better life and is willing to make the deliberate decisions necessary to get there. Healing the soul is about reorienting ourselves to the positive parts of life like kindness, dreams, community, laughter, giving, forgiveness, patience, music, art, and dance -- those things that ultimately give and sustain life.

No one can diminish or dismiss the wounding in your soul by declaring the appropriate level of significance of the event to you for your life. That is what, in part, often makes the work of healing the soul so difficult to sustain. We get caught in the crossfire of other people's judgments about what they believe should be the appropriate level of pain we experience and for exactly how long.

The most exciting thing about developing a lifetime of successful healing is that it is altogether possible and immediately available to us.

I'd like to suggest three steps toward healing. They are not new. You've heard them before. But the older I get, the more I study and read, the more serious I become about being a student of life, the more I am convinced that these three steps set up the conditions for healing.

Step One — We must acknowledge our pain. Healing the soul is an intentional, deliberate, and reasonable encounter with our wounds and developing choices to mitigate them. It involves giving up old ways and accepting new. It may even require us to leave the comfortable place of wounding we have learned to live with so long that we do not believe there could be any other way.

It is frightening and comforting at the same time. Yet, overcoming our most painful wounds is critical and central to our lives if we are going to survive, be whole, and embrace tragedy and trauma of the worst sort. We need to meet such times and events with something that allows us to move beyond the paralysis of pain and discouragement that keeps us from completing our healing.

Step Two — Take time to explore your inner being. This is achieved through actively engaging in the spiritual discipline of prayer, meditation, and study. In today's society we are bombarded with negativity through what we see, watch, hear, and read. All of this negative input adds to our inner pain. We must be careful what we allow or choose to fill our spirits. We must choose to surround ourselves with the goodness of life.

Sacred writings describe all the great spiritual teachers as men and women of prayer or meditation. On a daily basis they spent considerable amounts of time praying or meditating. They spent time in study, learning how to better serve their fellowman. As busy as they were, as much as they cared for people, as dedicated as they were to fulfilling their mission, they made time to find a quiet place to pray, meditate, and study.

What they knew is what we often fail to understand. They knew they could not live without spiritual grounding; that if they were going to be forever giving out, they must spend dedicated time taking in. That if they were going to spend themselves for others, they must regularly summon spiritual reinforcements to their aid. They knew they could not live without prayer, meditation, and study.

Often these spiritual leaders recorded their insights through written reflections or journals. Recording the thoughts from your own journey through journaling can often help you to discover healing insights.

Step three — Just as important as exploring our inner being is the concept of "giving back," or serving others. Critical to our inner healing is living a life of care and concern. If we want to experience healing



we must look outside ourselves and care about other people.

We all know there are many ways to serve others. It can be as simple as the way we greet and treat others to being involved in significant programs and activities whose mission is to improve life.

The important part is our attitude. As healthy people we must possess an attitude of gratitude and selfless service. Only then will we achieve inner healing.

I encourage you to try these three steps. Acknowledge your pain. Explore your inner being, filling it with creativity and goodness. And finally, reach out to others in a spirit of kindness and service. Take these three steps every day the rest of your life and you will experience inner healing.

(The opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer and do not reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. government.)

NCO cares for Civilians

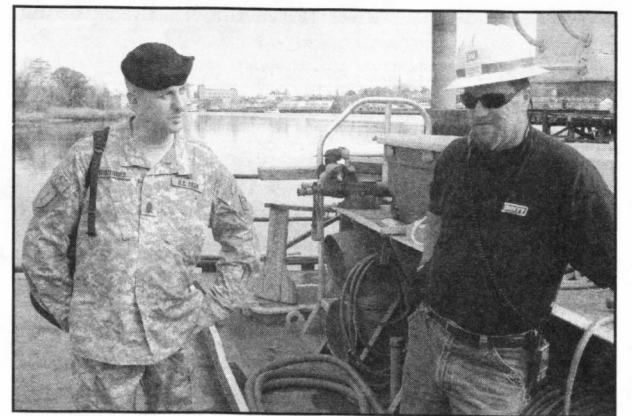
Article and Photo
By Hank Heusinkveld
Wilmington District

The non-commissioned officer (NCO) has been called "The Backbone of the Army" at least as far back as Rudyard Kipling's poem "The 'eathen." NCOs are doers, carrying out orders to enlisted Soldiers given by commissioned officers or higher ranking NCOs.

They are also responsible for the health and welfare of the Soldiers under them. But in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the "troops" are mostly Civilians — wage-grade employees and park rangers. But they have both an ear and a voice when the top NCO of USACE, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Winzenreid, pays a visit.

"I spend most of my time out in the field talking to people," Winzenreid said. "I bring their issues and concerns right to the Chief of Engineers to let him know what those issues are that affect the workforce. Wherever you go in the Army, there's always a sergeant major who is responsible for going out to find solutions to problems and concerns."

Winzenreid has had a well-rounded career. Before his current assignment in Washington as the ninth



Lester Gaugh, a deck equipment operator on Wilmington District's debris boat *Snell*, chats with Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Winzenreid.

USACE Command Sergeant Major, he was assigned to the Engineer Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major, and participated as a member of Task Force Danger in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Tikrit, Iraq. Although

Continued on next page



Logistics Center is Corps' first HPO

Article by Jim Pogue
and Brenda Beasley
Memphis District

It's an Army unit on a Navy base more than 350 miles away from the closest ocean. What is it? The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' new Logistics Activity Center at Millington, Tenn.

The Corps' first Department of Defense High Performing Organization (HPO) held a "stand up" ceremony on Jan. 30, at the Naval Support Activity Mid-South, which is also the home of the Corps' Finance Center.

"We're working together for a common purpose, standing up one organization that will continue to improve services and products that our customers are depending on worldwide," USACE Director of Logistics Gary Anderson told about 200 people assembled for the ceremony.

Raymond Urena, Director of the USACE Logistic Activity at Millington, echoed Anderson's sentiments.

"You are the tool," Urena told the crowd. "You

are the real instrument to make it happen."

The organization will support Corps commands both in CONUS and outside of CONUS. What does an organization like the Logistics Management High-Performing Organization (LOGM-HPO) do? According to Strategic Sourcing Program Office Chief Ray Navidi, it "provides direction, coordination, and technical guidance through value-added worldwide logistics policy, plans, and programs for all command logistics functions and logistics business processes."

The HPO concept is aimed at creating a more agile, flexible response to complex missions like logistics. The concept may be expanded to other missions as the Corps gains experience with HPO operation.

In the logistics arena, however, it is already paying dividends.

"For the first time in the history of the Corps of Engineers, we're getting plaudits from audits," Anderson said, speaking of his organization's work to track property and spare parts.

The Logistics HPO came into existence Sept. 17,

2006, following a year-and-a-half of development. During that time, leaders redesigned business processes, consolidated, combined, and centralized the way the Corps does logistics.

In his remarks, Anderson also stressed the challenges for employees of the new center.

He said they have "...a great opportunity to shape the organization with flexibility, agility, best business practices – a living laboratory for logistics excellence."

Anderson ended his remarks with a charge for everyone.

"It is up to us – each of us, all of us – to make this new, innovative organizational concept a reality in the lives of our fellow logisticians and all the people we serve," he said. "I'm counting on you for success. You can count on me to be right there and here beside you in this effort."

The new center in Millington expects to employ about 120 people within the next few years. Employees from Memphis District and Memphis' Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will also provide support to the new organization.

ERDC's supercomputers gain power

By Sara Leach
Engineer Research & Development Center

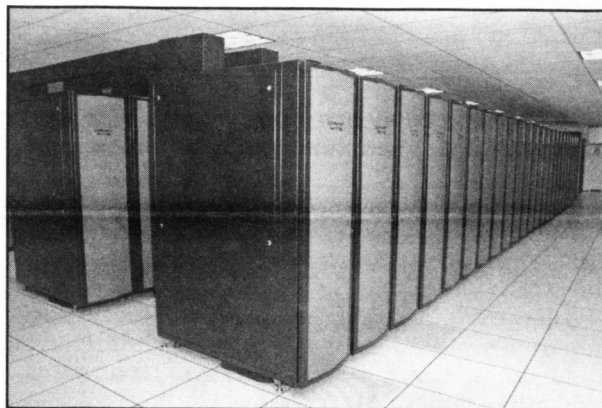
Cray Inc. was recently awarded a contract to upgrade the supercomputer in the supercomputing center of the Engineer Research & Development Center (ERDC), and to provide another of these amazing machines to the center.

Together, these upgrades will give a six-fold boost to the current computing capabilities of the ERDC. These capabilities will allow ERDC to support military and civil engineering projects in the U.S. and around the world on behalf of the Department of Defense High Performance Computing Modernization Program (HPCMP).

Teraflops. In the first quarter of 2007, Cray is scheduled to double the peak performance of the Cray XT3 supercomputer at the ERDC Major Shared Resource Center (MSRC) to more than 40 teraflops (40 trillion floating point calculations per second) by upgrading the system addition.

The award also calls for installing a new Cray XT4 supercomputer in late 2007 with peak performance of about 80 teraflops. Together the two systems will secure the ERDC MSRC's position as one of the most capable high-performance computing centers in the world.

"Our users will be able to advance their critical re-



Cray supercomputers make ERDC's High Performance Computing Center one of the most powerful in the world. Upgrades and the addition of another supercomputer will boost the center's capacity to more than 120 trillion floating point calculations per second. (Photo courtesy of ERDC)

search on one of the world's most powerful and efficient supercomputers," said John West, the director of the MSRC. "We're particularly excited about the opportunity to provide such a dramatic increase in capability for our users, while building upon familiar, proven technology that won't disrupt our users' workflow."

"To put these numbers into context, the first up-

grade to 40 teraflops would take 1,000 scientists 535 years of working around the clock to do the same number of computations that the new Cray can do in a single second," West added. "The second upgrade will bring our total computing capability to 120 teraflops, which would take 1,000 scientists more than 1,500 years to do what we can do in one second."

Armed forces support. The ERDC supercomputing center provides support to the nation's armed forces. Its capabilities are available to users around the world 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and enable DoD-wide research and development programs.

These computational projects include "Challenge Projects," some of the most important computational projects in DoD. The Cray systems at ERDC will be the largest systems in DoD's HPCMP, and among the largest systems anywhere in the world.

"This is a huge boost in our ability to solve the most complex science and engineering problems for the Army and the Department of Defense," said Dr. Deborah Dent, acting director of the ERDC Information Technology Laboratory, which hosts the MSRC. "These systems form the computational backbone of the support we provide to the defense mission. This new enhancement will enable us to continue to be a leader in providing computational capabilities and expertise for our DoD users worldwide."

Partnership. "We're excited to build one of the largest supercomputers in the U.S. Department of Defense at ERDC, leveraging our partnership and their current Cray XT3 supercomputer," said Cray President and CEO Peter Ungaro. "Cray supercomputers are built from the ground up to provide scalable, balanced systems designed to support the world's most demanding applications, such as those used by the DoD in their very important missions."

"We look forward to the continued partnership with ERDC and the U.S. Department of Defense in their High Performance Computing Modernization Program," Ungaro added.

In 1993, the DoD HPCMP established the High Performance Computing Center at ERDC as the first of four MSRCs in the nation. DoD scientists and engineers use supercomputing resources to significantly cut defense system costs by shortening the design cycle and reducing reliance on expensive and destructive live experiments and prototype demonstrations.

NCO

Continued from previous page

he has spent the majority of his Army career taking care of issues that affect Soldiers, he sees similarities between them and the USACE Civilians he regularly visits.

"I tell people that every once in a while I need to reach out and 'touch some green,'" he said with a smile. "I go back and visit Soldiers just to see what's going on in the tactical side. But I tell you, our Civilian employees are just as motivated about their projects as Soldiers are of their various missions. When I go out and talk to people like our park rangers about their projects, I see the same level of motivation. It amazes me. There's much more emphasis on expertise in the Corps, much more focus; whereas Soldiers have to know a wide variety of things. But that level of enthusiasm at our projects

and on our vessels is outstanding."

When asked, Winzenried tells Soldiers and others about opportunities within USACE. He sometimes visits colleges to recruit students, but he feels the best representatives for selling the Corps are within our own ranks.

"I really think everybody has a part to play looking for people who have what it takes to be a part of this organization," Winzenried said. "The demographics have changed a lot in how younger people view jobs. I think the surveys show they do three years then they move on; rarely do they stay with one company or one organization for their entire career. We have to recognize that. But I think that once people come to work for the Corps most of them end up wanting to stay. So that's a pretty good sign that we're on the right path of keeping quality people."

Navy Lt. has personal reasons for working on Basrah Children's Hospital

Article and Photo
By Betsy Weiner
Gulf Region South District

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

The very mention of the disease brings shudders of horror from parents of children two to five years old, who account for most of the disease's victims. ALL accounts for 80 percent of all childhood cancer, and also attacks adults over the age of 50.

Thirty years ago, the disease killed all but five percent of those who contracted it.

For Navy Lt. Allen Willey, serving with Gulf Region South District, and his wife Shereen, the horror became a reality when their three-and-a-half year old son, Christian, received the diagnosis. He had exhibited excessive bruising, and petechiae (tiny red spots from shattered blood vessels), on his chest.

"You don't live your life thinking about these diseases," said Willey, the resident engineer for the Basrah Children's Hospital project. "The impact never hits you until it happens to you. And then, at first, you don't believe it."

The nightmare began in December 2000, several days after Christmas, and it gave Willey a special motivation to see that the Basrah Children's Hospital is built well.

Willey said Shereen had taken Christian to the doctor because they noticed the spots on his chest. Because it didn't appear as if the child had chicken pox or measles, and Christian didn't appear to be sick, they decided to wait until after the holiday to treat what they believed to be a benign condition.

"They took a blood sample from him, and the next thing I knew, I was riding in an ambulance to UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) Medical Center and my son had a platelet count of *eight*," Willey said. "A normal platelet count ranges from 150,000 to 450,000. He could have fallen off of his bicycle, bumped his head, and started bleeding internally. He could have passed away in his sleep."

The bone marrow manufactures platelets, which circulate in the blood, forming clots to stop excessive bleeding. Christian had virtually none.

The next few years tested the Willeys, and their daughter Ashley (then six), as nothing else will. Through Christian's chemotherapies, 24 spinal taps, countless CAT scans and hospitalizations, the Willeys' priorities changed rapidly and dramatically.

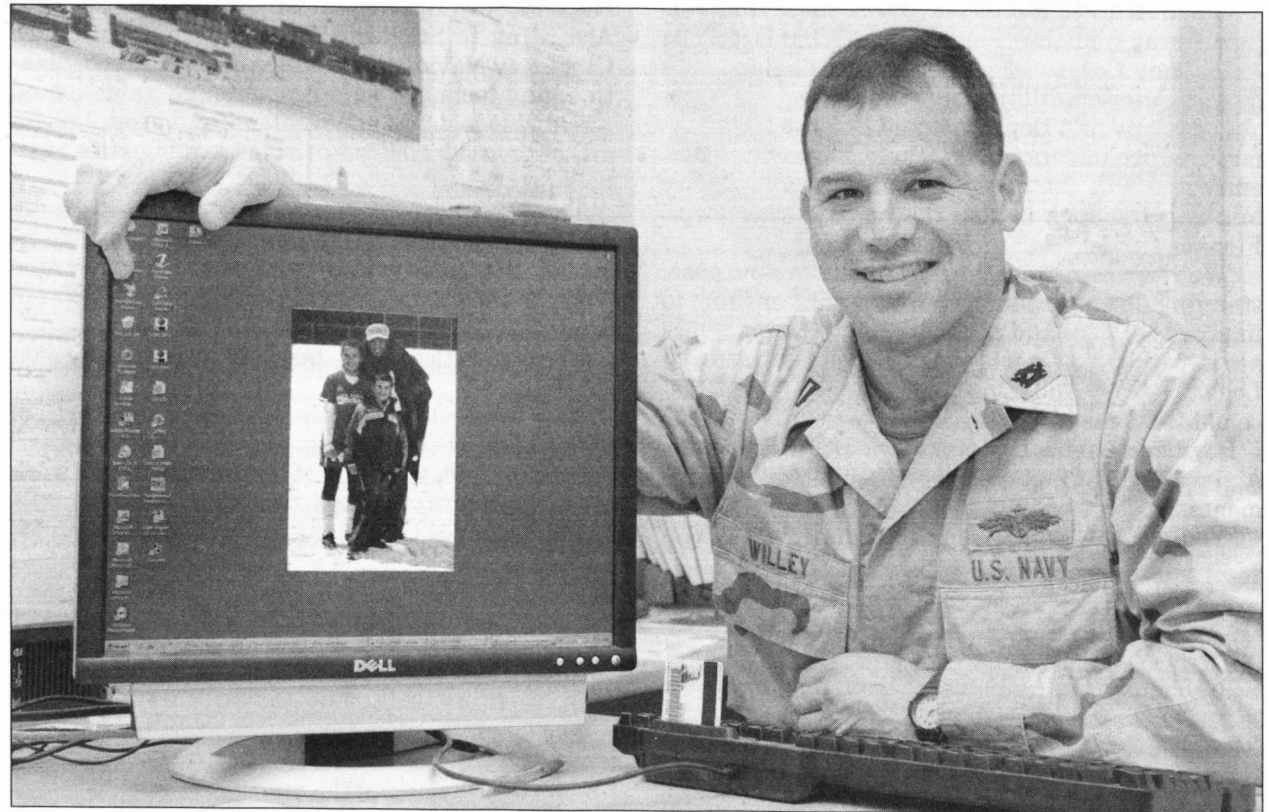
"I used to make donations to the National Rifle Association because I firmly believe in the right to own and bear arms," he said. "But your personal goals change when you are struck with this kind of tragedy. Now I donate money to the leukemia societies and support groups that helped us through this."

Willey now finds himself in a position he likes to call fate. As resident engineer in charge of the Basrah Children's Hospital, a pediatric oncology facility, Willey can continue his battle against the disease that nearly killed his son.

Christian, now nine, has been in remission for four years, and today, the survival rate for ALL is 86 percent and rising.

"Basrah was chosen for this hospital for a specific reason," Willey said. "Here in Iraq, the incidence of childhood cancer, most of it ALL, is eight times higher than in the west, and in Basrah that number is four times higher than in the rest of Iraq. One hundred fifty children out of 1,000 die before they reach five, mostly of ALL, and no one knows why. Diagnosed leukemia cases in Basrah have increased 70 percent since 1989.

"So this hospital project has become really personal for me," Willey said. "It was a fluke that I got this project. When I left Washington State, I didn't know



Navy Lt. Allen Willey has a photo of his wife and children on the computer in his office with Gulf Region South District, where he is the resident engineer for the Basrah Children's Hospital project.

what I would be doing, but I knew I would be Basrah. And now, I can give this project everything I know – 20 years of construction experience. Now I can give something back."

Willey explained that the facility will accept referrals from clinics throughout Iraq for children who are diagnosed with diseases like ALL that are beyond other clinics' ability to treat.

"It (the hospital) will have specialists who can treat the childhood cancers and other conditions, such as neurological problems," he said. "The hospital will have childhood cancer specialty clinics, capable of radiological treatments, chemotherapies, fluoroscopy, CAT scans, and MRIs. There will be an intensive care unit that will treat and monitor children whose immune systems are exhausted by the treatments and are prone to infection because their bodies have lost the ability to stave off other diseases."

Willey added that support will be an important part of the hospital's services – support for parents and families who have been shattered by diagnoses.

"Support becomes a way of life for the parents and the family," he said. "In the States, there are groups of people who have had a child or a grandchild struck by this disease. One group ran a Toy Closet — a place where children could go to pick out a toy (usually two) — when they would go have a procedure, such as a spinal tap. A spinal tap is particularly awful. They have to draw the fluid to run tests on it, but they prefer the child to be awake because of the risk of sticking the needle in the wrong spot.

"I can remember how awful it was — your child freaking out from the pain and your wife putting a headlock on the child so he can't squirm away," Willey said. "But the children were rewarded with the toys for going through this, thanks to the support groups."

Willey noted that these groups, along with the "Make A Wish" Foundation (an organization that grants critically ill children their fondest dream) are an important part of the treatment process, and he believes the hospital will generate the kind of spirit among the people of Basrah.

"You have no idea what you're in for," said Willey. "So when it first happens, you battle yourself. You

think, 'This can't be happening. What is going on? What do we do?' You may have other young children who are worried because their parents are gone and they have to stay in various places, being cared for by other people. So when you have counselors and people who know the information, it's a relief. The doctors will talk to you about your child, but it is the support elements, from chaplains and religious counseling to assistance from outside groups, that ultimately comforts you."

Willey added that having a critically ill child dwarfs all other problems a family might have. He noted that Iraq is going through civil unrest and having a hard time organizing itself.

"A lot of the good doctors have left, and they don't want to come back because it's a crazy environment," he said. "Meanwhile, you have these families suffering through tragedy. Their children are passing away and they have no idea why. To create this hospital — well, it's like another confidence builder. You have people around the world coming together, bringing in funds and putting this project together, making it work. And I'm so proud to be a part of it."

The hospital has been under construction for five years and has endured setbacks of funding and contractors. USACE continued the project after contractor Bechtel left the site, and Gulf Region South assumed oversight of the project. The construction is about 37 percent complete.

With three Jordanian contractors taking care of everything from equipment to design and construction, the site boasts from six to eight managers and a workforce that fluctuates between 400 and 550. The hospital should be completed by February 2009.

Willey emphasized that what motivates him to make the project succeed is the empathy he feels for the parents who are enduring what he, his wife, and son and daughter endured.

"I want to share my knowledge — close the gaps," he said. "I know what this can mean to a family going through a tragedy. I'm going the extra mile and will make extra effort to close the gaps. We have a great construction team, and they will continue to move forward after my tour here is finished."

Anthrax shots resume

Army Surgeon General announces vaccinations begin by April 30

By Brett McMillan
Headquarters

Last October the Department of Defense announced that it will resume the mandatory Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP) for military personnel, emergency-essential DoD civilians and contractors, based on defined geographic areas or roles. On Feb. 8, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs approved the Army's implementation plan.

The Army Surgeon General's office then released a message to all Army activities detailing the vaccine implementation plan. The message stated the intent to resume the AVIP immediately, with a goal of 90 percent of the mandatory population resumed or started the vaccine dosing schedule by April 30. The vaccine protects personnel from anthrax before exposure.

For the most part, mandatory vaccinations are limited to military units

designated for homeland bioterrorism defense and to U.S. forces assigned to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and Korea. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Safety and Occupational Health Office and other officials are reviewing the AVIP for implementation within the Corps.

"The anthrax vaccine will protect our troops from another threat – a disease that will kill, caused by bacteria that already have been used as a weapon in America, and that terrorists openly discuss," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs in a recent news release.

Anthrax is a serious disease that can affect both animals and humans. It is caused by bacteria called *Bacillus anthracis*. People can get anthrax from contact with infected animals, wool, meat, or hides. In its most common form, anthrax is a skin disease that causes skin ulcers and usually fever and fatigue. Up to 20 percent of these cases

are fatal if untreated.

When *Bacillus anthracis* is inhaled, as when used as a biological weapon, it is much more serious. Symptoms may begin with a sore throat, mild fever, and muscle aches. But within several days these symptoms are followed by severe breathing problems, shock, and often meningitis (inflammation of the brain and spinal cord covering). Once symptoms appear, this form of anthrax is almost always fatal, despite treatment with antibiotics.

The AVIP Web site, <http://www.anthrax.mil/vaccine/default.asp>, explains the reality of the anthrax biological threat, the disease, offers convincing evidence of the vaccine's safety, and dispels myths that may have crept into public perception.

According to the site, data going back more than 20 years shows anthrax vaccination is safe. Data comes from studying lab workers at Fort Detrick, Md., vaccinated from the 1940s to the

present. Some workers received more than 100 vaccinations, including multiple anthrax vaccinations, yet had no long-term health problems.

There are now 18 safety studies of anthrax vaccine involving more than 500,000 recipients, and seven independent panels of civilian scientists affirm the safety of the vaccine, including advisors to FDA, the Advisory Committee on Immunization, the Working Group on Civilian Biodefense, the Cochrane Collaboration, the Anthrax Vaccine Expert Committee, and the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board.

The basic anthrax vaccine is given in a series of six doses. The first three doses are given at two-week intervals and the additional three doses are given, at six, 12, and 18 months after the first dose. Annual booster doses are needed for ongoing protection.

If a dose is not given on schedule, the series does not have to start over. Resume the series as soon as practical.

Old Christmas trees protect town beach

By JoAnne Castagna
New York District

If you make a trip today to Bradley Beach on the New Jersey shore during the winter months, you may be surprised to see residents walking their dogs along the water, riding bikes on the promenade and even sporting wet suits while surfing the ice-cold waves.

A team of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel saw all this when they visited the beach that draws more than 100,000 beach goers annually. It was obvious that the residents yearn for beach season, especially since the dunes they were observing were created by the residents themselves, using donated Christmas trees, in an effort to protect the mile-long shoreline the Corps restored a few years back.

The Bradley Beach shoreline had experienced erosion due to previous storms and was in need of sand nourishment. In July 1999, New York District began a sand nourishment project on Bradley Beach, in Monmouth County, N.J., as part of the Corps' Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet Beach Erosion Control Project.

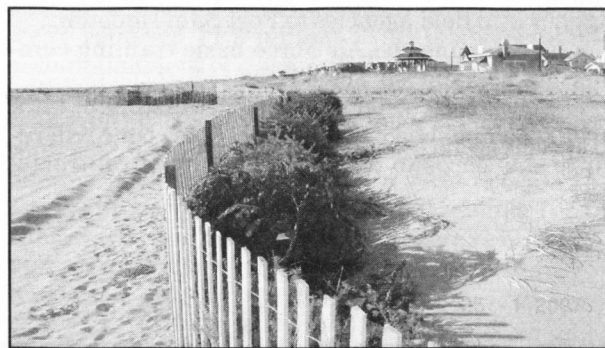
The Corps contracted Weeks Marine to place 3.1 million cubic yards of sand on the shore, which added more than 200 feet of beach front, and to create seven groin notches and four outfall extensions.

"Dune creation was not a part of the Corps' project because they are not needed in this project area for protection because the area has a naturally high backshore. If dunes were needed the Corps certainly would have added this feature," said Lynn Bocamazo, Senior Coastal Engineer, who designed and monitored the completed beach nourishment project.

After the project was completed in January 2001, a local effort arose. The Bradley Beach residents wanted to take an additional step to protect the Corps' work, so they decided to create beach dunes. Beach dunes control beach erosion by limiting wind-blown sand loss.

"We wanted to protect the beach's promenade from future storms and give it a new look, like no other town has," said Richard Bianchi, Jr., Operating Supervisor of Public Works for Bradley Beach who designed the dune project and has been a lifelong resident of Bradley Beach. "We also wanted to block out the noise for sunbathers on our beaches. The only sound you hear now are the waves and birds."

The dunes also protect beach residents' homes and



Christmas trees from this past holiday season were placed on the ocean side of the sand dunes where they can capture sand blowing inland and build permanent dunes. (Photo courtesy of Bradley Beach Public Works)

provide them a beautiful ocean front and privacy."

Bocamazo said, "Bradley Beach is not the first community along the 21-mile Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet Beach Erosion Control Project area to create dunes. Manasquan Beach and Monmouth Beach created dunes using fencing or dune grass, or a combination of planting and fencing. But Bradley Beach is the first to use Christmas trees."

Every January, Bradley Beach residents place their donated Christmas trees curbside where a truck from the Bradley Beach Public Works Department picks them up. Since the beginning of this project, an estimated 28,000 trees were used to create a stretch of dunes, 10 feet high, along the mile-long oceanfront.

"Presently, we are still collecting donated trees from this past Christmas season," said Bianchi.

In 2005, to support the dunes that were being created the community, designed a dune system called a saw-tooth design. "Snow fences were placed on an angle along the promenade side of the dune to support the dune system. This also makes the beach look appealing from the shore side," said Bianchi.

As trees are collected, Bradley Beach Public Works places them on the ocean side of the sand dune where they can capture sand blowing inland from the ocean. This eventually forms permanent dunes.

"This year we are laying the trees down north to south on the east side of the beach, and next year we will do the west side," said Bianchi.

As in previous years, dune grass will be planted on top of the dunes.

"When the project began, residents of Bradley Beach planted 50,000 plugs of dune grass on the dunes to keep them anchored," said Bianchi. "We're receiving a grant for an additional 25,000 to 50,000 plugs of dune grass that will be planted this spring."

The Christmas tree method of building beach dunes has been successful.

"The placement of Christmas trees in combination with snow fencing and dune grass has proven to be very effective in capturing windblown sand that results in the growth of the height and width of the dunes," said Bianchi. "Today the dunes are much wider at 25 feet wide and taller at 10 feet high and are successfully holding the sand back. Right now we are trying to level everything out so that the dunes are all at one height."

The dunes have shown to be beneficial to the environment because they provide a more diverse habitat than just sand alone. "The dunes create a sanctuary for sparrows," said Bianchi. "They also attract all kinds of insects that all wild birds eat."

The public also finds the dunes appealing.

"Everyone is excited about the dunes," said Bianchi. "They think it is a wonderful project and they love the feeling of the beautiful dunes and scenery."

Bianchi adds that the public now has a personal connection with their beach that draws 20,000 residents every beach season. "Their donated trees will be there forever. They don't rot. The residents are now a part of the beach."

Community officials are also supportive of the project and think it's beneficial to the public.

"When you walk through the dunes to get to the beach from the promenade, psychologically it provides the illusion that you are leaving one world for another," said Stephen Schueler, Mayor of Bradley Beach. Schueler is the financier for the project. He will fund the project 'til 2008, the year the dune project is expected to be completed.

It's this type of involvement the Corps likes to see.

"A pro-active municipal public works department is a beneficial addition to any federal or state beach erosion control project," Bocamazo said. "Bradley Beach is maintaining the sand that was placed there, and is an active participant in the project's success."

BRAC military construction projects in San Antonio area to be worth billions

By Clayton Church
Fort Worth District

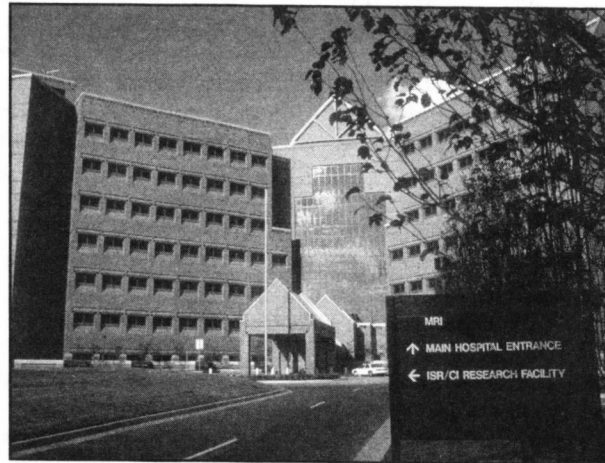
Large dollar amounts normally get people's attention. This was the case when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence hosted an Industry Day in San Antonio.

The dollar amount is \$2.3 billion and represents numerous projects to be built at four separate military bases in the San Antonio area in the next five years to implement the Base Realignment & Closure 2005 decision. These projects cross numerous infrastructure, design, and construction disciplines, and offer many business opportunities.

The installations are Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph Air Force Base, and Camp Bullis.

BRAC 2005 will affect how the DoD trains and cares for its members and how the military medical system is operated. The impact on San Antonio area installations includes:

- Consolidation of in-patient care from Wilford Hall Medical Center to Brooke Army Medical Center.
- Converting Wilford Hall to an ambulatory care clinic.
- Realigning enlisted histology training and Army and Navy combat casualty care research to Fort Sam Houston.
- Realigning enlisted basic and specialty medical training from Sheppard Air Force Base, Naval Station Great Lakes, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, and Naval Medical Center San Diego to Fort Sam Houston
- Realigning the Air Force Medical Support Agency,



Brooke Army Medical Center is just one of the activities that will benefit from BRAC construction in the San Antonio area. (Photo from the Digital Visual Library)

Air Force Medical Operations Agency, Air Force Element Medical Defense Agency, Air Force Element Medical-DoD, and Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, from Brooks City Base to Lackland Air Force Base.

- Relocating research and development and administrative missions from Brooks City Base.
- Relocation of the Installation Management Agency and field agencies to Fort Sam Houston.
- Revitalizing the Air Force basic training campus on Lackland Air Force Base.

The enormous dollar amount and the scope of work to be accomplished in a relatively short time will require the Corps to use the full array of contracts,

construction methods, and procurement methods.

The Corps designs and manages military facilities construction for the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Tricare Management Agency in the San Antonio area. The facilities involved in BRAC '05 at the four San Antonio installations includes hospitals, clinics, labs, research and development facilities, dormitories, class rooms, maintenance facilities, administrative offices, dining facilities, and miscellaneous vertical and horizontal construction projects.

Fort Worth District will use procurement methods and contracts including stand alone, single and multiple award task order, and indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracts (IDIQ). The project teams will also look at using regional product line contracts for standard type facilities such as parking, dorms, dining facilities, and youth centers, and already existing AFCEE IDIQ contracts.

Numerous opportunities will be available for large, small, and disadvantaged firms to be involved in implementing BRAC 2005 initiatives. Companies that are already registered with the government at www.ccr.gov have already made the first step. Keeping the profiles updated with any changes or new capabilities could help with winning a bid.

Registering for the FedBizOpps Acquisition Notification Service and keeping abreast of announcements, solicitations, and synopsis may also help in obtaining a contract.

Those companies eligible for assistance from the Small Business Administration would be wise to take advantage of the expertise, and Chambers of Commerce are always an invaluable resource.

(From the "San Antonio Construction News", used by permission.)

HR Corner

New courses developed for civilians

Civilian Leader Development is being transformed! The new Civilian Education System (CES) kick off was held on Jan. 22, marking the official implementation of the CES. This transformation is particularly significant for all Army civilians.

The CES is a new progressive and sequential leader development program that provides enhanced leader development and education opportunities for Army civilians throughout their careers. Army civilians will have the opportunity to become "pentathlete" civilian leaders of the 21st century who personify the warrior ethos in all aspects, from war-fighting support to statesmanship to business management.

The CES leader development program includes four new courses that replace the previous inventory of legacy courses offered for Army civilians. The new courses are the:

- Foundation Course (still under development).
- Basic Course.
- Intermediate Course.
- Advanced Course.

The new courses are designed to deliver leadership competencies derived from the Office of Personnel Management leadership competencies, and competencies identified by the Center for Army Leadership in FM 6-22, *Army Leadership*.

CES is a structured, progressive, sequential program that includes all Army civilians. It provides leader training and education that supports civilian leaders' career path requirements, professional development needs, and promotes lifelong learning and

self-development as integral parts of the civilian leader development program.

CES provides leader development opportunities for Army civilians. Designated courses are required for interns, team leaders, supervisors, and managers.

The Foundation Course is a distributed learning course and will be launched in the near future. The Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced courses are a combination of distributed and resident learning. Each course has a target audience, but the distributed learning portion of each course is open to all Army civilians regardless of whether they meet the target audience criteria.

Foundation Course. The Foundation Course is being designed for employees to gain an understanding of the U.S. Army's structure and leadership doctrine, and the personnel system(s) for Army civilians. The Foundation Course is mandatory for interns, team leaders, supervisors, and managers employed after Sept. 30, 2006.

Basic Course. The Basic Course is for civilian leaders who exercise direct leadership to effectively lead and care for teams. The curriculum focuses on basic education in leadership, counseling fundamentals, interpersonal skills and self-awareness. This course will be a combination of distributed learning and a two-week resident phase at the Army Management Staff College's (AMSC) campus at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The Basic Course replaces the Leadership Enhancement and Development Course.

Intermediate Course. The Intermediate Course

is for civilians in supervisory or managerial positions to develop more adaptive, innovative, self-aware, and prepared leaders to care for personnel and manage assigned resources. Training and developmental exercises focus on "mission" planning, team building, establishing command climate, and stewardship of resources. This course is a combination of distributed learning and a three-week resident phase at the AMSC campuses at either Fort Leavenworth, Fort Belvoir, Va. The Intermediate Course replaces the Organizational Leadership for Executives Course.

Advanced Course. The Advanced Course is for civilian leaders who exercise predominately indirect supervision and who are adaptive, innovative, self-aware, and capable of effectively leading a complex organization, guiding programs, and managing associated resources. The focus is on strategic thinking and assessment, change management, developing a cohesive organization, managing a diverse workplace, and management of resources. This course is a combination of distributed learning and a four-week resident phase at AMSC's Fort Belvoir campus. The Advanced Course replaces AMSC's Sustaining Base, Leadership, and Management Course.

Information regarding the Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Courses can be found at <http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/>. Click on the Civilian Education System tab at the top of the page. Tuition, travel, and per diem for the courses are centrally funded to include civil funded employees. Salary is not funded.

Around the Corps

SES assignments

The Secretary of the Army announced the following Senior Executive Service assignments:

Joseph Tyler, Chief of Programs Division in the Directorate of Military Programs, to Deputy Director of Military Programs.

Patricia Rivers, Chief of Environmental Division in the Directorate of Military Programs, to Chief of the Military Programs Integration Division in the Directorate of Military Programs.

Dr. Edwin Theriot, Chief of Interagency and International Services Division in the Directorate of Military Programs, to Chief of the Environmental Community of Practice in the Directorate of Military Programs.

Mohan Singh, the Regional Business Director of North Atlantic Division, to Chief of the Interagency and International Service Community of Practice in the Directorate of Military Programs.

Michael Bratlien, the Regional Business Director of South Pacific Division, to Division Programs Director of South Pacific Division.

James Dalton, the Regional Business Director of South Atlantic Division, to Chief of the Engineering & Construction Community of Practice in the Directorate of Civil Works.

Chris Hinton-Lee, the Regional Business Director of Great Lakes & Ohio River Division, to Regional Business Director of South Atlantic Division.

Karen Durham-Aguilera, the Programs Director of Northwestern Division, to the Regional Business Director of Mississippi Valley Division.



Students applaud during the opening ceremony of a new girls' high school in Baghdad.

New girls' school

Residents in north Baghdad hosted the official opening of a new \$470,000 16-classroom girls' high school on Feb. 5.

Ali Bunni, deputy chairman of the Qada Council there, officiated at the ribbon cutting along with local three tribal sheiks. The community had been trying to get a new school built for years long before coalition forces arrived. "We cannot adequately express our happiness on this special occasion," Bunni said. "This is great news for the 40,000 residents in this area."

The school's headmistress said that the girls had to travel long distances to high school, and most stopped once they completed primary school. "This building offers these girls an opportunity to complete their secondary education, at which point they can qualify for better job opportunities or college," she said.

"Today is a special day," said Col. Debra Lewis, commander of Gulf Region Central District. "Our future lies in education. You wanted this to happen, and it has taken many days and many sacrifices. Edward Lewis once said, 'We define ourselves by the best that is in us, not the worst that has been done to us.'"

The 414th Civil Affairs Battalion enhanced the

project through the Commander's Emergency Response Fund, purchasing 225 two-person desks, blackboards, chalk, computers, file cabinets, installing a new concrete basketball court, and school supplies for all students.

"Local residents told me how important this school was to their community, and I got numerous calls wanting to know when it would be finished," said Capt. Holly Hanson, a 414th team leader. "The local council got involved and provided us a list of what the teachers needed and we were happy to help."

Construction on the 1,500 square meter (about 4,900 square feet) two-story structure started a year ago for an enrollment of up to 450 students. Apart from the classrooms, the facility includes five faculty rooms, restrooms, generator, and a 130 square meter (about 426 square feet) guard house.

Debris removal milestone

An unprecedented volume of debris created by hurricanes Katrina and Rita is being removed by the Corps under the direction of FEMA. The 11.9 million cubic yards of debris collected so far would fill two-and-a-half Louisiana Superdomes.

FEMA, the Corps, and its contractors have reached an important milestone. With less than one million cubic yards remaining, the curbside and private property debris removal program is 94 percent complete in Orleans Parish.

"Debris removal operations are progressing toward completion," said Michael Park, director of the Corps' Louisiana Recovery Field Office. "Of an estimated 12.6 million cubic yards assigned to us by FEMA, we've removed 11.9 million. This is an incredible accomplishment of a strong federal, state, and local partnership."

During peak operations in October 2005, the Corps' contractors were removing about 80,000 cubic yards per day. Current collection figures for curbside and private property debris removal are averaging 10,000 cubic yards per day. A large percentage of the remaining volume will come from an estimated 4,700 houses that remain to be gutted.

Correction

In the article headlined "Forensics evidence helped convict Saddam Hussein" in the February "Engineer Update," Dr. Michael Trimble did not testify in the first trial of Saddam Hussein that convicted him and sentenced him to death. Trimble testified in the second trial, which was for mass murders during the Anfal campaign against the Kurds. Trimble testified in that trial about a month before Hussein's execution. That second trial against Hussein's co-defendants is still on-going.

Kwajalein Vehicle Repair Shop

Honolulu District and U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) officials opened the new Vehicle Paint and Prep Shop (VPP) on Kwajalein Atoll.

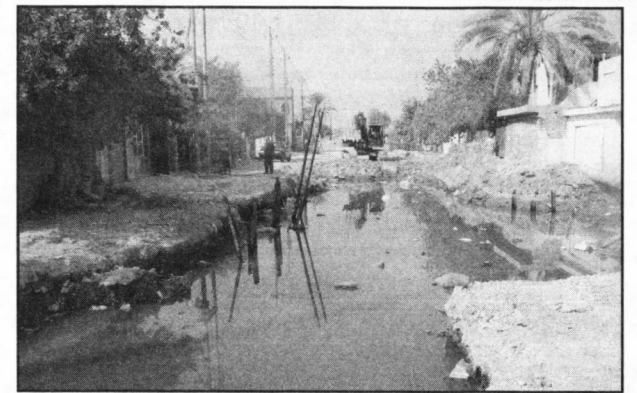
Kwajalein is about three miles long and part of the Marshall Islands far out in the South Pacific. The atoll is the home of the Ronald Regan Ballistic Missile Defense Test site, the Corps' Kwajalein Resident Office KRO, and about 2,000 American military and DoD civilians, support personnel, and their families.

Since the military began using Kwajalein in 1944, combating corrosion to vehicles and equipment has been a constant problem. According to Rodney Leung, project manager, the main cause of premature equipment and vehicle failure on the island is corrosion caused by the salt-laden air.

Honolulu District's KRO managed the \$10 million, 20,000 square foot VPP project, which includes rooms for hydro blasting and undercoating, booths for abra-

sive blasting, metallization, and paint spraying. The facility also features administrative space and support facilities including utilities, paving, storm drainage, information systems, air conditioning, and a 25-ton dehumidification and mechanical ventilation system.

"In the new metallization, paint spray, and undercoating booths, the workers can paint effective barriers on the equipment to combat the harsh elements and keep their equipment in excellent running condition for a longer time," Leung said.



The water and sewer project in Doura eliminated this large pond of sewage, giving residents a cleaner, healthier environment.

Water, sewer upgrade

Crews are installing new water mains in three neighborhoods in south Baghdad, and another contractor is almost finished repairing a major sewer collapse there.

"The Iraqis like seeing people working in their community," said Maj. Robert Nash, Gulf Region Central District. "That area in Doura has been neglected for decades, and residents appreciate our efforts."

Nash is optimistic about the neighborhood's future despite ongoing insurgent clashes. "People are starting to grasp what's really going on and what we're trying to do," Nash said. "There are more shops open, more people walking around, and more kids playing in the street than I've seen in a long time. We're working shoulder-to-shoulder with Baghdad's government to make this happen."

Each of the three mahallas (neighborhoods) gets about 22,000 meters (about 13 miles) of new water mains installed, ranging from 100 millimeters to 300 millimeters (4 to 12 inch pipe). "We're putting in about 41 miles of water mains in those three areas," Nash said.

The collapsed sewer main in Mahalla 824 is being replaced with 280 meters (about 918 feet) of new 900 millimeter pipe (35.4 inches in diameter).

"We're just about finished with that project, and it's making a dramatic improvement by eliminating a huge pond of standing sewage that has been there a long time," said Nash.

"Residents are seeing that we and their government are committed to bettering their community, and that definitely has a direct positive impact on the security situation," said Maj. Chip Daniels, Operations Officer with 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. "The Iraqis there, when they wake up in the morning, want clean water in their homes, a functioning sewer system, to send their kids to school, to go to work, and have a life as a family. We're doing everything we can to give them that opportunity."

"There are a few bad people who're trying to hold up progress, but the average Iraqi wants to move forward," Daniel said. "Improving the essential services lets residents see that things are getting better. A vast majority of Iraqis want a future for their country and this is a step in that direction."

Small biz chief impressed with Corps

Article by Brett McMillan
Headquarters
Photo by F.T. Eyre
HECSA

Before deciding to join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the Corps' Small Business Chief in November, Tony Bell did his homework. "I looked at the Corps' small business accomplishments, and I was thoroughly impressed," Bell said. "This agency is really committed to small business."

In fact, that commitment is in the Corps' genetics, Bell was told by the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock.

With nine weeks on the job, Bell said he is picking up the lingo of abbreviations and acronyms and is "thrilled to be here."

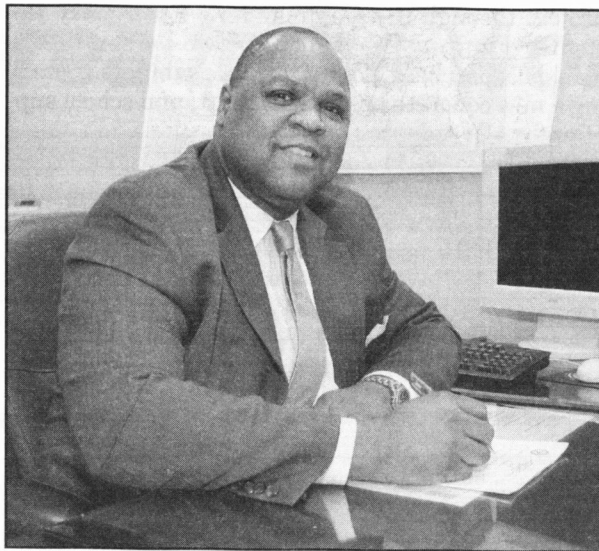
"I believe I made a good decision coming here," said Bell, who comes here after being the small business chief of the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration.

Bell's duties include providing policy, guidance, and oversight for the Corps' Small Business Programs. He commends the Corps staff as a whole for being small business friendly. "What I see in my role is to make sure that train doesn't lose momentum in terms of small business, and continues to bring innovative and creative ideas to the Corps and the use of small businesses," Bell said.

Bringing to the office a strong background in small business programs and new ideas from his previous experiences, as well as good relationships with other small business directors, Bell said he hopes to have a positive impact on the Corps. He acknowledged there are "some tremendous challenges in terms of our small business accomplishments."

Current challenges for the Corps' Small Business Office in looking out for small businesses are "the 900 pound gorilla" military transformation construction projects, and the large-scale operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina — balancing the requirements and capabilities of small and large businesses with the need to restore the lifestyle of the New Orleans area as soon as possible.

"A lot of the Katrina contracts have gone to large



Tony Bell, the new Small Business Chief, says he is "thoroughly impressed" with the Corps' small business accomplishments.

business, just because of the scale of these contracts and that in itself is going to impact our small business numbers, but we're still aggressively seeking sub contracting opportunities for small businesses," Bell said.

"The small business environment is a dynamic environment, so you have to change directions quickly and adapt to different environments and settings," Bell said.

Growing up in a military family forced him to adapt quickly to changes at a young age he said, recalling moving four times when he was in the seventh grade. An Air Force brat, Bell was born at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and spent most of his youth in Okinawa and Japan, where he said his mother was particularly interested in the family engaging in the Japanese culture and taking weekend trips.

"I found it very rewarding," Bell said of the experiences.

He recalled Air Force family socials and said his upbringing "absolutely" influenced his life to this job now.

"Even though I've never been in the military, just growing up in a military family gave me a sense of discipline, a sense of teamwork," Bell said. "My dad instilled in me the 'can do' attitude and always said, 'There's an answer to a problem, a resolution to an issue. You just have to find out how to get it.'"

When Bell's father retired from the Air Force in 1974, the family settled back into the Washington, DC area. Bell finished junior high school and high school in the Fort Washington area.

After graduating from George Mason University with a degree in economics, Bell went to work for a telephone company as a revenue analyst. From there he joined a government contracting and consulting company as a contract representative, then worked for a Fortune 500 company in the contract office where he "got a taste for small business," before joining the government as an industry economist with the General Services Administration.

After GSA, Bell joined the IRS contracting shop as a cost-price analyst for three years, and then joined the small business office at the IRS for another three years as the deputy of their small business program.

Bell then joined the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) and developed its small business program from its infancy.

"That was quite a challenge," he said. "By the time the small business office had stood up, TSA had already awarded \$2 billion in contracts to large businesses. So for us to really get in there and have some meaningful small business numbers, it was going to take quite a while. In my tenure at TSA, small businesses accomplishments grew 100 percent for each of the years that I was there. But it's easy going from 3 percent to 6 percent to 12 percent."

At TSA Bell said he learned the value of teamwork, relationships, and partnerships, not just with the small business community but with the internal stakeholders as well, convincing them that small business are very viable.

After three years developing the small business program at TSA, "the wonderful opportunity at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers came available," Bell said. "I took advantage of this and I'm enjoying the family here at the Corps."

Budget

Continued from page one

- The Oakland Harbor deepening project (\$42 million).

- Construction of the Olmsted Locks and Dam in Illinois and Kentucky (\$104 million).

- Projects to restore the Florida Everglades/South Florida ecosystem (\$162 million) and the side channels of the Upper Mississippi River system (\$23 million).

- The Sims Bayou, Houston, flood damage reduction project (\$24 million).

The FY08 Civil Works Budget includes three significant aquatic ecosystem restoration initiatives. They are:

- * Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Recovery. The Corps will begin construction to modify the Intake Dam on the Yellowstone River to enhance pallid sturgeon survival (\$15 million – O&M funded).

- * Everglades/South Florida Ecosystem Restoration. To build on the success of the Kissimmee River restoration, the budget funds a study to reevaluate the federal interest in expanding the Kissimmee River area of restoration to reduce peak flows to Lake Okeechobee and achieve additional aquatic ecosystem benefits (\$750,000 – Construction funded).

- * Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barriers on the Illinois Waterway. The budget proposes the authorization of improvements to the existing demonstration project barrier, and of additional funding authority to complete a second electric barrier.

These electric barriers will protect the Great Lakes ecosystem from the northerly migration of Asian carp and other invasive species (\$7.65 million – Construction funded).

The Corps' FY08 Regulatory Program is budgeted at \$180 million, a \$7 million increase from the FY07 budget. These funds will enable the Corps to continue to protect and preserve water-related resources, improve compliance and enforcement of wetlands regulations, and improve the permitting process.

Funding for emergency preparedness is increased by 25 percent from the FY07 budget to \$40 million. This will prepare the Corps to more effectively respond to natural disasters through increased emergency response training; improved coordination and communication with other federal, state, and local agencies; maintenance of larger emergency supply inventories; and the purchase of additional rapid response vehicles.

The budget also includes about \$20 million to apply lessons learned from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, \$10 million to continue the national inventory and assessment of flood and storm damage reduction projects, \$10 million to assess the safety of the Corps' portfolio of dams, and \$2 million for increased cooperation with FEMA's flood plain programs.

Recreation activities are provided a total of \$267 million in FY08 from the O&M and MR&T accounts. The budget also re-proposes a recreation facility modernization initiative through which the Corps would

fund a portion of the cost to maintain and upgrade recreation facilities through the collection of additional user fees and partnerships with non-federal interests.

The administration also is developing and will propose legislation to collect a user fee from the barges that use the inland waterways. The existing tax covers only about 10 percent of the total costs that the Corps incurs to make barge transportation possible on the inland waterways system. The proposed fee would promote the efficient use of the nation's overall resources and require the commercial interests that benefit from federal capital investments on the waterways to carry more of the costs.

To provide greater near-term hurricane and storm damage reduction for the broader New Orleans metropolitan area, the budget includes FY07 supplemental language to reallocate \$1.3 billion in existing unobligated funds from the 4th Emergency Supplemental Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-234) to fund the highest priority remaining work in the 3rd Emergency Supplemental Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-148). The reallocated funds would be used by the Corps to continue to restore projects to their design levels, and to accelerate the completion of unconstructed portions of authorized works.

The FY08 Army Civil Works budget information, including a state-by-state breakdown, will be available at www.usace.army.mil/civilworks/cecwb/budget/budget.pdf