



INTERCOM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District

Vol. 44 No. 1 January - December 2016

Infrastructure Upgrade

**Walla Walla
District unveils
next generation
turbines - pg 24**



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INTERCOM

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Commander
Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa

PA Chief
Joe Saxon

PA Specialist
Bruce Henrickson

PA Specialist
Gina Baltrusch

PA Specialist
Brigida Sanchez

Editor
Jennifer McFadden Allen

Student Aide
John Dodd

For more information, contact:
Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
201 N. 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone: 509-527-7020
E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil
Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil



Office of the District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District



Team Walla Walla,

It is with great honor and pride that I assumed command of this incredible District on July 8, 2016, from Lt. Col. Tim Vail. The efforts that you all put in far transcend our short two-year durations as commanders and are evidenced everywhere you travel in our great community. From our clean, efficient and low-cost hydropower, to the reliable freedom of navigation for private and commercial boat traffic, to the top notch recreation that so many enjoy, I cannot travel anywhere in this region without communities commending you all for what you do each day.

I would like to highlight the successful planning and execution of the long-term navigational outage on the lower Columbia and Snake rivers. This well-coordinated and synchronized project that spans two Districts simultaneously could not have been successful without the transparent communication with the Northwestern Division, Portland District, stakeholders and the community. Many members of this District have spent several years ensuring this project was executed on time and with minimal impact to the region, particularly to the shipping industry. Your efforts have been acknowledged and applauded up and down the river system by the various organizations and communities.

The District's efforts throughout the Columbia River Basin continue to prove that modern civilization and nature can coexist. The advances in fish passage, controlling water temperature and dedicated attention to the species continue to yield improved results in both juvenile and adult endangered species each year. Concurrently, the farming industry is able to transport 25 percent of the Nation's wheat and grain through our Columbia and lower Snake River dams to feed not only the American people but millions of people around the world. Our efforts over the next five years assisting the development of the Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) Environmental Impact Statement will only further optimize how the entire system is operated to provide the greatest value to our nation for generations to come.

The Regulatory efforts in the state of Idaho continue to protect our Nation's aquatic resources, while still allowing the communities to continue to develop and thrive in an environmentally responsible manner. This is no small task considering most permitting decisions directly impact individual properties, which is sometimes a very emotional event. Through it all, the professionalism, knowledge and empathy that the team shows is why they are one of the best in the Nation.

All of this would not be possible if not for the hundreds of quiet professionals we have working in the background designing, providing legal consultation, conducting the necessary real estate transactions, laboring over the contracting details, and managing and overseeing the construction of the projects. Your countless hours of work do not go unnoticed and are large reason for our success.

Finally, thank you for your warm welcome to my family and me as we join the team here. We look forward to 2017, both its challenges and rewards, as Team Walla Walla continues to demonstrate tremendous value to this great Nation.

Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa,
Walla Walla District Commander

On the cover



Ice Harbor Lock and Dam remove a turbine more than five decades old to make way for a new turbine runner design which will improve performance as well as hydraulic conditions for fish. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

The Walla Walla District
*Serving our Community,
the Nation, the World.*

Corps progressing on Lower Granite Lock and Dam Juvenile Bypass System

Story by Bruce Henrikson



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo Illustration)



Left Page: Contractors and Corps Employees continue to work to improve the Juvenile Bypass System (JBS) at Lower Granite Dam. The illustration above shows the changes being made to the JBS. Left: Construction continues at the JBS to 'daylight' incoming juvenile fish. Above Right: Fish Biologist Ann Setter answers questions at the JBS 'media day.' (Photos by Bruce Henrikson)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District is improving both adult and juvenile fish passage at Lower Granite Lock and Dam to help endangered salmon and steelhead migrate the lower Snake River.

Two significant fish passage improvements in progress include thermal upgrades (pg 5) and the Corps's constructing a Juvenile Bypass System (JBS). The upgrades includes "daylighting" juvenile fish passage by reconfiguring the juvenile transportation channel to a large elevated bypass flume leading to the Juvenile Fish Facility (JFF) just downstream of the dam, plus other related fish bypass improvements.

This upgrade is anticipated to increase survival of juvenile fish migrating downstream, and will also increase operational reliability of the bypass system. The Corps previously upgraded its other lower Snake River juvenile bypass systems at three other dams downstream during the past several decades.

These improvements contributed to increased juvenile fish survival, which supports the ultimate goal of improved adult fish returns when those juveniles return from the ocean as adults several years later.

"These fish passage improvements are part the Corps' mission to protect salmon and other endangered fish species as we

continue to provide value to the Nation with our dams in the Snake River basin," said Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa, Walla Walla District Commander. "We continue to upgrade our older dam infrastructure as planned and to respond to unusually hot weather conditions as we help fish migrate."

Background: Juvenile Bypass System Improvements

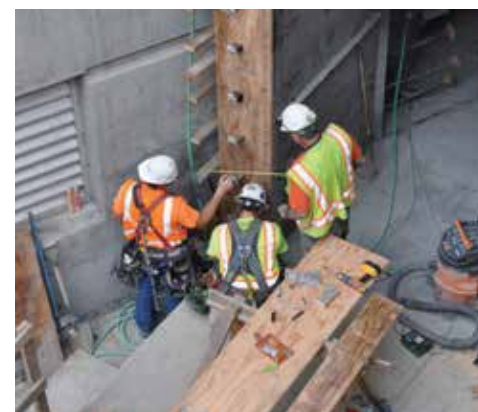
As millions of juvenile fish pass over, around or through Lower Granite Dam each year, with an average juvenile survival rate of about 93 to 96 percent passing the dam, Juvenile Bypass System improvements to increase the survival of juveniles migrating downstream are significant. Current construction of the JBS and future Primary Bypass Outfall Pipe are divided into two phases, termed "Phase 1a" and "Phase 1b."

Phase 1a construction of an elevated transportation flume started in the fall of 2014 and is expected to be complete by March 2017. Phase 1a construction includes reconfiguring the juvenile fish transportation bypass channel to transition to an elevated flume outside the dam; enlarging the fish collection channel within the dam; enlarging fish passages or "gatewell orifice" openings within the dam; installing new passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag detection to provide fish research and monitoring data, and more.

Phase 1b Primary Bypass Outfall Pipe design is anticipated to be completed mid-2016 and construction completed by March 2017. The bypass outfall design and construction is being managed separate from Phase 1a due to additional time needed for design efforts.

This primary bypass outfall pipe will transport juvenile fish from the new elevated transportation flume system to a better release location in the river below the dam. Similar to other bypass outfalls recently constructed by the Corps, this new primary bypass structure will contain various bird deterrent and access walkway structures.

See fact sheet at <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/FishPrograms/>.



Contract workers at Lower Granite work to implement upgrades (Photo by Bruce Henrikson)

Cooling the Lower Granite Dam fish ladder a reality on Snake River



The Corps completed installing a permanent adult fish ladder water cooling system in February to prepare for warming water temperatures this summer and help upstream-migrating adult salmon and steelhead pass Lower Granite Dam. This new Adult Fish Ladder Temperature Improvement System was built in response to unusually hot weather the past several years throughout the Columbia-Snake river basin.

Hot weather raised temperatures in the "tailwater" just below Lower Granite Dam in summer to more than 68 degrees Fahrenheit, which is above acceptable limits. Hotter water promoted development of a "thermal barrier" in the adult fish ladder, hindering upstream migration of adult salmon and steelhead to their spawning grounds. Sockeye salmon were most affected in summer 2015, though the Corps used temporary pumps to cool the fish ladder in 2014 and 2015.

This permanent system started cooling fish ladder water during the summer 2016.

Improvements to fish bypass systems are being installed on the lower Snake River Dams. Shown here is a semi-circular cool water spray at the upstream end of Lower Granite Dam's adult fish ladder that cools the river water and prevents 'thermal barriers' to fish passage during increasingly hot summers.



(U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo)

Walla Walla welcomes new commander and family

Story by Gina Baltrusch

Lt.Col. Damon A. Delarosa assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, during a

morning ceremony held July 8 in Walla Walla, Washington.

Brig. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, commander of the Corps' Northwestern Division, officiated as Lt. Col. Timothy R. Vail transferred command to Delarosa. Vail served as the district commander for the past two years.

The Walla Walla District, established in 1948, encompasses more than 107,000 square miles in parts of six states – Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada and Utah. It is a multi-faceted district responsible for providing hydropower, environmental stewardship, flood risk management and recreation opportunities, and maintaining a commercial navigation channel in the Snake and Columbia rivers.

Delarosa's most recent assignment was as the counter-improvised explosive device staff officer at the NATO Joint Forces Command in Brunssum, The Netherlands.

His prior assignments include platoon leader and company executive officer in the 65th Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Light) and Aide-de-Camp to the Assistant Division Commander (Operations) 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Later he served as the Mine Action Officer for the 25th Infantry Division during the Stabilization Force mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Following the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, he served as the

Military Construction Officer to the 82nd Airborne Division, deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Theatre Security Engineer and then again as the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander for the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

After attending Command and General Staff College, he returned to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and served as the Brigade Engineer and Planner for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Stryker), deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom. While deployed, he became the Battalion Executive Officer for 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment. LTC Delarosa then served as the Engineer Majors and Lieutenant Colonels Assignment Officer at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Lt. Col. Delarosa is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, Combined Armed Services Staff School, the Joint Engineer Operations Course, Engineer Officer Advanced and Basic Courses, Ranger School, Sapper Leader Course, Airborne School, and Air Assault School.

His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star (1 oak leaf cluster); Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (2 oak leaf clusters); Joint Service Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal (1 oak leaf cluster); National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal;

Iraqi Campaign Medal (3 campaign stars); Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals; NATO Medal; Ranger Tab; Sapper Tab; Senior Parachutist Badge; Air Assault Badge; and the Bronze Order of the DeFleury Medal.

LTC Delarosa is married to the former Alina Durso, and they have two sons.



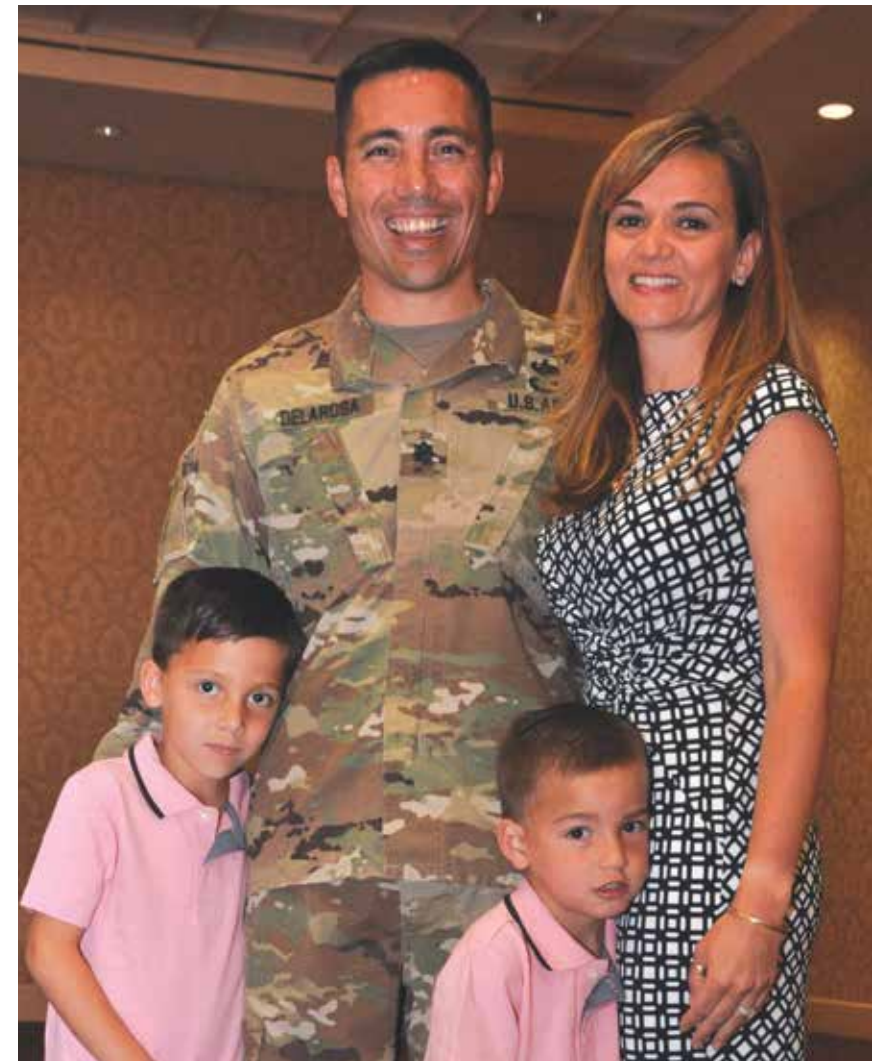
Soldiers from the 864th Engineer Battalion, stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, near Tacoma, Washington, provided a ceremonial color guard for the change of command ceremony.

(Photo by Gina Baltrusch)



Lt. Col. Damon A. Delarosa (left above) assumed command of the Walla Walla District, during a July 8, ceremony at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Walla Walla. Brig. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon (right above), commander of the Corps' Northwestern Division, presided over the ceremony, while the Soldiers of the 204th U.S. Army Band, from Vancouver, Washington, provided music (right).

(Photos by Jennifer Allen)



Lt. Col. Damon A. Delarosa assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, during a July 8, 2016, ceremony at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Walla Walla.

(Photo by Gina Baltrusch)

Cascadia Rising!

Story and Photos by Jennifer Allen

SITUATION

A simulated magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck 20 miles west of Eugene, Oregon resulting in five minutes of shaking and massive tsunamis with wave heights ranging from 20 to 80 feet at landfall.

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

General Impacts

Total Population: 8,000,000
Total Area: 100,000 sq miles
 ~13,000 Deaths, ~27,000 Injuries ~945,000 with short-term housing needs.
 \$1.1 million in damaged buildings and 16 million tons of debris. 72,000 Residents in tsunami inundation area.

Impact to NWD & Supporting Districts

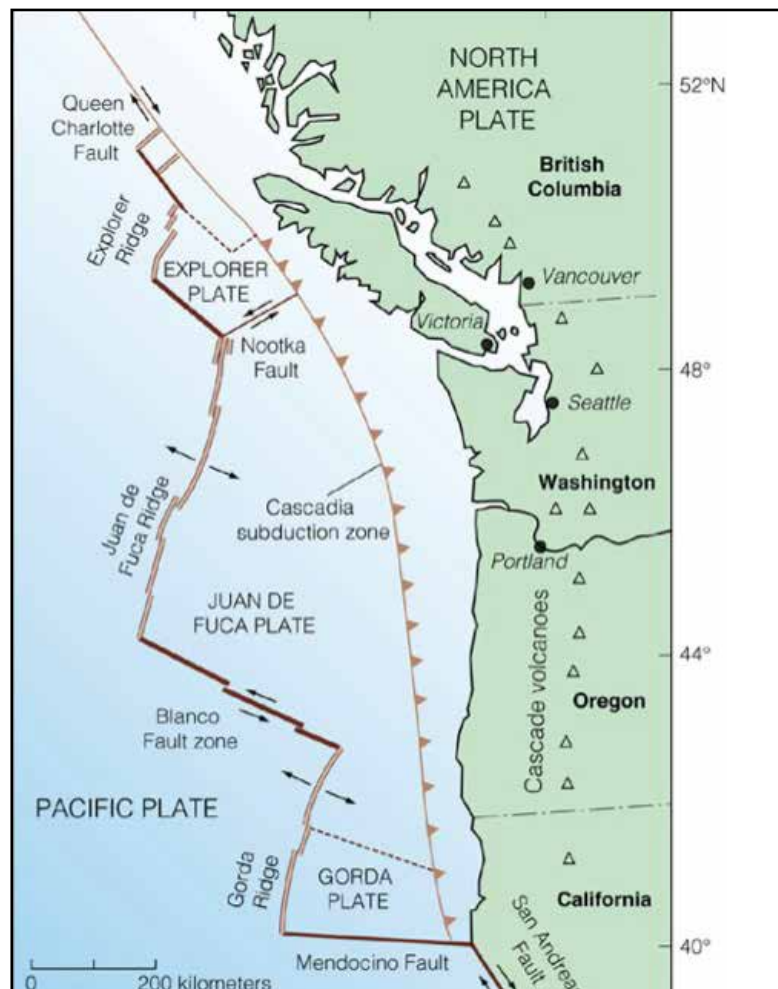
Northwestern Division, as well as Portland, and Seattle Districts not mission capable, and 75 percent of employees from these commands will be impacted.

Walla Walla District will be mission capable, although there will be some impact to projects and employees.

Omaha and Kansas Districts will both be fully mission capable with limited impacts.

Impacts to Critical Utilities

I-5 Corridor and West – Severe damage to critical infrastructure in all sectors (utilities, communication, transportation).
 East of I-5 Corridor – Minimal damage.



(U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo)

District mobilizes to become 'super district'

Cascadia Rising, June 7-10, 2016, was a multi-agency exercise designed to mimic, to the greatest extent possible, the challenges, issues, and stressors of a level-1 catastrophic earthquake disaster. "This exercise was a fully exercised emergency response plan," said Val Bogdanowitz, Emergency Operations Manager, "a plan that the Corps' leadership had been working on for more than a year and we were making sure necessary personnel participated."

Its purpose was to test the ability of Emergency Operations Centers at all levels of the government, coordinating joint-interagency disaster operations. It included multiple venues in the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, as well as nationally from the D.C. area. Those who participated were met with a host of mock platforms including social media, news media, and civilian players.

The scenario: In the early morning hours (PDT) on June 7, 2016, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake resulting in the complete rupture of the 700-mile Cascadia Subduction Zone fault line occurs. The duration of the earthquake lasts for more than four minutes. The affected area encompasses 140,000 square miles, directly impacting the states of Oregon and Washington and the Canadian province of British Columbia. More than 10 million people reside in the direct impact zone. The disaster causes widespread damage to critical infrastructures and the built environment, and causes thousands of deaths and injuries. For the Northwestern Division (NWD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the exercise heavily impacted the Portland District Headquarters, Seattle District HQ, and the Division HQ offices and staff.

The impacts of the earthquake on these USACE commands would be great enough to trigger the activation of the regional NWD Cascadia Subduction Zone operations plan. Serious damages were reported at various projects in Portland and Seattle's area of responsibility.

These damages were intended to trigger engineering assessments and prioritization of response activities. Other operational challenges that were reported included isolated and injured project personnel.

With the stage being set, Walla Walla District employees jumped right into action becoming a 'super civil works district,' enabling emergency response throughout the Walla Walla, Portland and Seattle Districts with overarching command and control to be facilitated through the Omaha District.

While the exercise was only four days, planning had been underway for several years, and preparations will carry on as USACE, FEMA and other emergency management organizations focus on this very-real scenario and to continue to operate and maintain multi-purpose infrastructure assets, as well as executing engineering and water resource services across the Inland Northwest in the face of a natural disaster.

During the final day of wrap up for the exercise, facilitator Carl Pigott from Mississippi Valley Division said, "USACE is very skilled at mitigating man-made and natural disasters, including the communication of such disasters, the preparation of teams and plans. Each district shares a role, and makes great use of all available resources. Planning for the Cascadia Rising Subduction Zone earthquake exercise has been ongoing since before the beginning of the 21st century. It just continues to breathe new life as the impending doom draws nearer."

Scientists from across the country have reported on the potential for disaster on the west coast, and the Walla Walla Districts know just how important it is to prepare.



Cascadia Rising, turned the Walla Walla District lunch room into 'command central' for a four-day exercise, June 7-10, which was designed to test and stress mission capabilities in the event of a level-1 catastrophe, such as a 9.0 earthquake.



Emergency Managers, including Walla Walla District Deputy Commander Maj. Ian Davis, begin to prepare for Cascadia Rising, a four-day exercise designed to test the ability of Emergency Operations Centers at all levels of the government.



Emergency Managers and responders at work in the District's Emergency Operations Center.

Mill Creek levee maintenance continues

Story by Gina Baltrusch

The Mill Creek Project began Phase-2 of restoring the federally managed part of the Mill Creek Levee System in December 2016. It includes removing tree roots intruding into the levee cross section from the landside slope.

District Geotechnical Section engineers (levee experts) examined several test pits excavated at various points along the mile-long levee and determined removing problematic roots would require 'grubbing' roughly two feet into the levee. In some locations, where tree roots have extended deeper into the levee cross section, more extensive excavation and repairs may be required.

Winter 2016-2017 Phase-2 repair work on the south levee includes an area from the division works beginning near the Mill Creek Office, progressing toward the Jones Ditch, just downstream of the wooden pedestrian bridge. Repair and maintenance work involving heavy equipment is slated to begin in early December and is anticipated to take approximately three months to complete.

For visitor safety, intermittent closures of parts of Kingfisher and Whitetail trails may be required during the contract performance period. The value of task orders to be performed during Winter 2016-2017 is about \$670,000.

A map of visitor trails and upcoming closures is available on the Corps' website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/MillCreekLeveeMaintenance.aspx.

Workers will be accessing the levee with heavy equipment and vehicles to remove the tree roots and recompact levee material. Foot bridges across Mill Creek will be closed intermittently.

Visitors are encouraged to look for trail-closure updates on information kiosks located at major trailheads and on the Mill Creek Project's Facebook page www.facebook.com/millcreekdam.

The contract to perform Phase-2 work was awarded to KEU Inc., of Vancouver, Washington, on Sept. 14, 2016. Because of the large scope of work and a narrow timeframe to accomplish it -- between bird-nesting and flood seasons -- work will occur in segments over multiple years. This maintenance is necessary to meet National Levee Safety Program requirements in accordance with Corps headquarters regulations and policies.

Phase-1 work began Oct. 8, 2015, and was completed on Dec. 31, 2015. Problematic vegetation was removed from the surface of the levee slopes and 15-foot landward from the levee's design toe.

Non-compliant vegetation on levees blocks visibility for inspections, access for maintenance, hinders flood-fighting operations, and adds uncertainty to structural performance and reliability, which increases risk to the public. The inability to inspect, maintain and flood fight typically delays emergency response and contributes to the risk of levee failure.



The contractor performs an initial surface grubbing of the landside slope of the south levee (left bank) to remove the existing vegetation layer. The contractor started at the access gate and worked upstream, completing approximately 3,000 linear feet before the snow fell, postponing work.



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos)

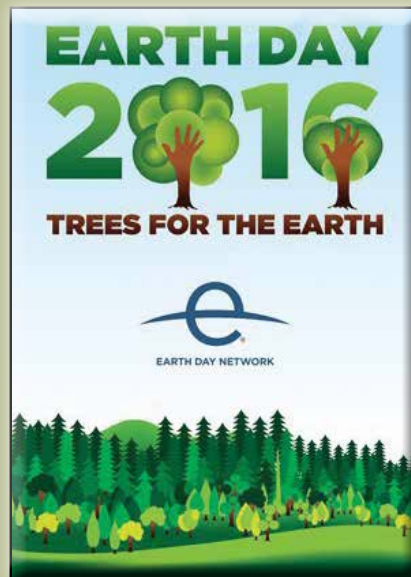
Earth Day 2016



Tree planting was the order of the day when Walla Walla District members joined community responders to celebrate Earth Day 2016 at Rooks Park.



(Photos by Jennifer Allen)



Goats reduce excess vegetation on Mill Creek levees

Story by Jennifer Allen

(Photo by Jeremy Nguyen)

A herd of goats arrived to remove weeds and other vegetation growing on levees that border the creek shoreline extending from the Mill Creek diversion dam downstream to the metal division works foot bridge near the Mill Creek Office. The goats were contained within electric fencing while working in the vegetation-maintenance zone, accompanied by professional herding dogs and shepherds.



A herd of goats arrived Friday, May 6, and removed weeds and other vegetation growing on levees that border the creek shoreline extending from the Mill Creek diversion dam downstream to the metal division works foot bridge near the Mill Creek Office.

The goats were contained within electric fencing while working in the vegetation-maintenance zone, accompanied by professional herding dogs and shepherds.

Dogs were required to be leashed while the goats were working on the levee for the safety of the dogs and the goats. This avoided potential conflicts between pets and working dogs.

“Last year, a shepherd reported that a baby goat was killed and dragged into the creek,” said Park Ranger Jeremy Nguyen, “Following the temporary leash rules will help us avoid other similar incidents that might endanger the goats and require us to close-off the south levee.”

Based on past years’ grazing projects and current contractor schedule estimates, the temporary leash rule was in effect for about

4 weeks, while the levees are were managed for vegetation.

Once areas downstream of the diversion dam were cleared of vegetation, the herd was relocated upstream of the dam to tackle vegetation on the forebay levee. In addition to the areas covered in past contracts the goats removed invasive Reed Canary Grass around the debris barrier upstream of the diversion dam.

This project allows U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff to safely inspect portions of the levee during periods of flood risk.

The contract for the vegetation removal was awarded to Northwest Goat Grazers, of Lostine, Oregon, for one base year plus four option years, with work starting in 2016. The first year of contract performance is valued at \$9,890.

Goat grazing is an effective way to control vegetation without using herbicides or burning. Grazing also lessens future maintenance by reducing seed production.

For more information about Mill Creek see us at <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/>.

Industry Day 2016

Story by Jennifer Allen

More than 100 business owners and representatives attended the Corps' "Industry Day" on October 13, 2016 at the Walla Walla District headquarters in Walla Walla, Washington.

The day-long event was open to those interested in learning about how to do business with the Corps, upcoming contract opportunities, competing for contracts, or showcasing capabilities.

District personnel presented informational briefings, discussed upcoming contracting opportunities and processes. A small-business panel discussed socio-economic programs in contracting with the government.

Covered topics also included how to respond to a sources sought and solicitation notices, how to register in the online contractor System for Award Management (SAM), and where and how to find Corps contracting opportunities.

"The Walla Walla District is an economic driver in this region and actively seeks contractors to support our efforts," said James Glynn, Small Business Programs Manager for the Walla Walla District. "For many small-business owners with little or no experience doing business with federal agencies, competing for government contracts can be a challenging process. We regularly offer Industry Day seminars

for business owners to get some first-hand help in learning the policies, processes and opportunities to do business with us."

For many attendees, Industry Day offered the chance to network with other businesses who do work for the Corps.

Sandy Young, an economically disadvantaged, woman-owned, small-business owner from Eagle River, Alaska, attended Industry Day to learn how to compete for Corps contracts and network with other businesses.

"My company has done work for other federal agencies, but it's been a challenge to compete for Corps contracts because of the complexity of the scope of work on many of the Corps' large jobs," she said. "We're a relatively new business -- I just got our SBA status approved last year -- so I've attended this and the last two years' Industry Days to learn more about what types of work the Corps contracts out, what its contracting processes are, and how Verdis, my civil-engineering/construction/landscape-architecture company, might be able to do business with the Corps, or perhaps other larger companies which get Corps contracts."

That small-business to large-business networking can be key to successful federal contract performance. Large businesses which have capacity to perform complex, high-value work often sub-contract with small businesses to perform portions of total scope of work. Several large-business attendees said finding sub-contractors with the skills and capacity needed can be challenging.

"Like federal agencies, large businesses also need to meet certain Small Business Administration requirements.

Events like Industry Day can be very valuable to them because they put them in direct contact with small businesses that have a variety of capabilities that they could possibly use to fulfill their small-business-plan goals," explained Glynn. "It's a win-win for everyone."

The Walla Walla District awards contracts for construction projects, architect-engineering studies, and supplies and services needed to operate their facilities. These contracting opportunities total \$90 to \$130 million annually.



Contracting 2016 Totals

- Number of Contracts 1,003
- Total Value of Contracts \$121 Million



Top: Small Business Chief James Glynn speaks to more than 100 business owners at the annual Industry Day, Oct. 13, 2016. Above Left: LeAnne Walling, Victoria Richmond and Karlyn Graves, registered all attendees for the Walla Walla District's Industry Day. Above Right-Left: Ruthann Haider, Chief of Contracting Division for Walla Walla District speaks to business owners about the importance of small business to the Corps' operations.



(U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Photos)

Walla Walla Industry Day

October 13, 2016
TIME: 9 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.



The district is responsible for managing environmental, hydroelectric, navigation, engineering, construction, emergency management and recreation services within a region covering 107,000 square miles that includes parts of six states. The district operates and maintains six hydroelectric power facilities, four flood-risk-reduction projects and \$2.5 billion of infrastructure.

Walla Walla Corps of Engineers
where
Small Business is Big Business

Reaching out to partners and stakeholders

Clover Island Ecosystem Restoration project



(Photo by Jennifer Allen)

Top: The Corps is partnering with local agencies on an environmental restoration project on Clover Island in the Tri-Cities, Wash. Above: Park Ranger Brett Morse provides information and answers public questions during outreach activities at Clover Island.

Waitsburg flood risk management



Left: Former mayor of Waitsburg, Walt Gobel, joined John Heitstuman, Cindy Boen, Donna Street and Herb Bessey as they viewed some of Waitsburg potential flood inundation areas. Right: The City of Waitsburg is seeking to partner with the Corps to develop solutions to their flood risk problems. (Photos by Joe Saxon)

Tri-Cities levees



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos)

District Commander Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa, Engineering and Construction Chief Donna Street, and Glenn Smith, Operations Project Manager, Ice Harbor Lock and Dam explore levees near Tri-Cities, Washington, as part of the commanders welcome briefs.

Recruiting & Job Fairs



Right: Lori Penabaker and Chris Russell assist jobseekers during the January WorkSource job fair in Kennewick. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos)



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photos)



Leadership Development Program 2016 Graduates

The Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District would like to congratulate the 2015-2016 class graduates of the Leadership Development Program. Through hard work, dedication and perseverance these twelve employees have taken their next step in becoming tomorrow's leaders.

Front Row (left to right): Matthew DeBerard, Gregory Brooks, Scott Thoren, Hillary Morgan, Chuck Chamberlain and Charles Weatherspoon.

Back Row (left to right): Donna Street (Program Champion), Allison Needham, Tracy Krause, Alex Hammond, Carolyn Foote, Jeannette Wilson, Ben Swaner and Maj. Ian Davis, deputy commander.

S.T.E.M.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

District staff encourage students to pursue science & technology careers



(Photo by Joe Saxon)



Above: Dani Fichera addresses a class of about 60 engineering students at Washington State University, in Pullman, Washington.

College & University Visits

- 25 Feb -- Oregon State Univ.
- 24 Feb -- Eastern Washington Univ.
- 24 Feb -- Gonzaga (Spokane)
- 24 Feb -- Boise State Univ. (Boise)
- 17 Feb -- WW Univ. (College Place)
- 3 Feb -- U of Idaho (Moscow)
- 2 Feb -- WSU (Pullman)
- 28 Jan -- WSU (Pullman)
- 26 Jan -- CWU (Ellensburg)
- 29 Oct -- Eastern WA Univ. (Cheney)
- 28 Oct -- Gonzaga (Spokane)
- 22 Oct -- Oregon State Univ. (Corvallis)
- 14 Oct -- Boise State Univ. (Boise)
- 8 Oct -- CWU (Ellensburg)
- 8 Oct -- Montana State Univ. (Bozeman)
- 7 Oct -- U of Idaho (Moscow)
- 6 Oct -- WSU (Pullman)
- 1 Oct -- WSU (Tri-Cities)
- 29 Sep -- WSU (Tri-Cities)

Engineering Week



Above: Dwayne Weston and Andrew Dankel Ibanez familiarize Davis High School students with the Corps' missions on their annual career Fair. Middle and top: A Walla Walla District employee shows Assumption Middle School students fish operations at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam. Right: DeSales High School freshman Jake Wylie applies weights to his team's paper tower while other participants look on.



Top left: DeSales High School freshmen Aly Fazzari and Emily Hamada watch as their paper tower gets measured by Capt. Brent Vance, a Walla Walla District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteer. Top Right: DeSales High School sophomore JD Deal applies weights while Jeff Lyon, a Walla Walla District U.S. Corps of Engineers volunteer, and his senior partners Steven Yang and John Crowley look on. (Photos by Jennifer McFadden Allen)



Above Left: DeSales High School seniors Steven Xiao and Kyler Dunn construct their tower out of 25 sheets of copy paper. DeSales Students participated in this engineering competition as part of the national Engineering Week campaign. Above Right: Capt. Kyle Shea looks on as students from a local Walla Walla school, build their paper towers for Engineering Week. (Photos by Jennifer McFadden Allen)

U. of Idaho S.T.E.M. visit

Right: University of Idaho students are briefed in the visitors' center during their field trip to Lower Granite Lock and Dam. Far right: Students view the Juvenile Fish Facility at Lower Granite Dam.



Tribal BMX STEM event



(Photos by Joe Saxon)

Above: Andrew Dankel Ibanez and Dean Holecsek build stations for bike inspections. Above, right: Rodney Huffman helps a young student with her bike chain. Left: Tribal reservation police instruct students in bike safety.



In August the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) partnered with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to conduct a special emphasis program with Native American youth ranging in age from 9-14. The program provided

an opportunity for USACE, BPA, and BSA staff to work with youth to build BMX bikes, then conduct experiments focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum. In appreciation for Walla Walla District support to this event, 2008 BMX Olympic medalist Donny Robinson sent the District an autographed Olympic Flag.

Veterans Day Parade



Corps' friends and family members on parade. The Walla Walla community saluted its veterans for their service and many sacrifices during the traditional Veterans Day Parade through downtown Walla Walla, Washington.

Above: Rangers Jeremy Nguyen and Chris Alford lead the Walla Walla District's contingent in the Veterans Day parade Nov. 11.



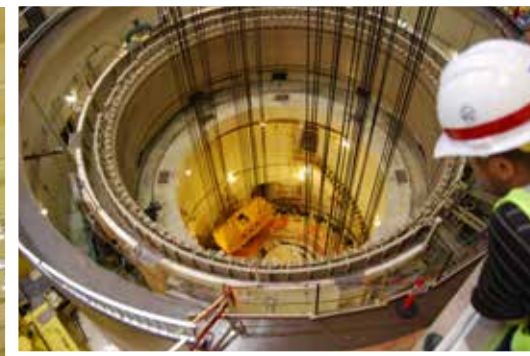
Right: Bobber and the Mill Creek Staff march along with the Walla Walla District Volunteers for the annual Parade.



Above: District Commander Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa and his son, Kyle Delarosa, "high five" young watchers along the annual parade route.



(Photos by Joe Saxon)



Top: Project Manager Kevin Crum explains new Ice Harbor advanced-technology turbine runner to assembled guests and media at the dam in May 2016. Above, right: turbine pit where the new runner will reside. Above: Former Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Vail speaks to guests. Behind him are Corps, Bonneville Power Administration, Voith Hydro, NOAA Fisheries and contractor leadership and technical experts in front of the new turbine runner prior to its installation. Right: Corps Hydraulic Engineer Martin Ahmann describes technical aspects of the new turbine runner. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photos)

More efficient turbine – safer for fish

Story by Gina Baltrusch

An advanced-technology turbine, designed to improve fish passage at federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers, is being installed at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam in southeast Washington state.

The \$58 million project, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), calls for runner replacements on two turbines, one fixed-blade, one adjustable, along with fish passageway improvements at Ice Harbor over the next few years.

The first turbine is set to be operational within 12 to 14 months. The work includes structural modifications to the turbine draft tube exits to improve hydraulic conditions for fish. The contracts also contain options to fabricate and install a third turbine runner.

The turbine design and installation is a collaboration between contractor Voith Hydro Inc. of York, Pa., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power Administration and NOAA Fisheries. Small-scale model testing of the new fixed-blade runner design indicates it may also increase power generation by 3 to 4 percent.

“After 50 years of operation and increasing maintenance requirements, the need to replace the existing turbine runners at Ice Harbor presented the opportunity to pursue new turbine runner designs with fish passage improvement as a priority,”

said Kevin Crum, project manager.

Voith Hydro Inc. used digital and physical models, and multiple design cycles to settle on two styles of high-tech runners, (turbine runners are the parts that rotate in water to generate power). The turbine runners are made of stainless steel to fight water corrosion.

BPA engineer George Brown called the work an “excellent example of collaboration among BPA, the Corps, NOAA and a capable contractor.”

“The key ingredient holding us all together is the goal of creating meaningful improvements to the environmental performance of a critical Northwest power resource,” Brown says. “The efficiency and reliability benefits to the hydroelectric system are an important bonus, stretching the value of the limited water resource.”

Advanced-technology turbines could eventually extend beyond Ice Harbor to replace aging infrastructure at other Columbia and Snake river dams.

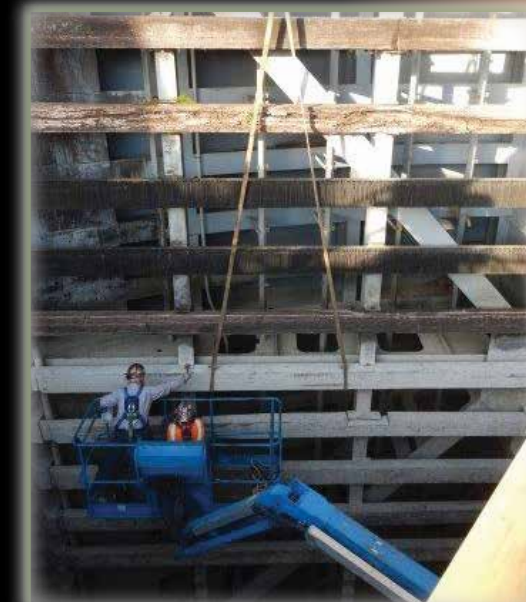
The latest monitoring shows that less than 10 percent of all migrating juvenile salmon and steelhead pass through turbines on the Snake River, depending on the dam and the species of fish. At Ice Harbor Dam that number is between 0.5 to 8.6 percent.

Most out-migrating fish use surface passage, such as spillway weirs, on their way to the ocean. About 93 to 96 percent of all young salmon and steelhead now survive passage at each dam in the Federal Columbia River Power System.

For more information about the Ice Harbor turbine runner design and other programs to benefit Columbia River salmon and steelhead, please visit the www.nwfw.usace.army.mil and www.salmonrecovery.gov.

Above, left: Invited guests, news media, Corps, Bonneville Power Administration, NOAA Fisheries and contractor personnel at the May 2016 turbine runner introduction. Above, right: An older turbine runner was removed in September 2016 to make room for the new advanced-technology turbine runner.

Repairing McNary Lock and Dam



Annual outage key to maintaining infrastructure

Each year from December to March, maintenance teams at Walla Walla District's dams drain their navigation locks and repair these facilities. At McNary Lock and Dam, 2015 was no exception.

Crack repairs were completed on the downstream miter gate structural members. Cracks are the result of structural fatigue in the welded steel members from thousands of cycles of filling and draining the navigation lock chamber since put into service in 1954.

The quoin seals were resurfaced to ensure even distribution of structural loading from the miter gate to the concrete monoliths at the hinged sides of the miter gate leaves. This resurfacing also improved the watertight seal between the gate and the navigation lock walls.

In addition, the miter seals were resurfaced to ensure even distribution of structural loading across the two miter gate leaves. The miter gate seals are located in the center of the gate where the two leaves mate together when the miter gate is closed.

The resurfacing of the miter seals also improved the watertight seal between the two gate leaves.



McNary Rotor lift



Corps apprentice program graduates six journeymen

Six students graduated today from the Walla Walla District's Power Plant Apprentice Program during a 10 a.m. ceremony June 23 at McNary Lock and Dam.

Benjamin Ashlock, an Army Reserve veteran from Kennewick, Washington, works at McNary Lock and Dam as a power plant mechanic.

Jason Bohlke, an Army veteran from Benton City, Washington, works at McNary Lock and Dam as a power plant electrician.

Summer Dellamater, an Air Force veteran from Pasco, Washington, works at Lower Monumental Lock and Dam as a power plant operator.

Chris Ensley, a Marine Corps veteran from Colfax, Washington, works at Lower Granite Lock and Dam as a power plant electrician.

Cameron Hulse, an Air Force veteran from Dayton, Washington, works at Little Goose Lock and Dam as a power plant electrician.

Harold Wentworth II, an Army veteran from Pasco, Washington, works at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam as a power plant operator.

The apprentice program, based at McNary Lock and Dam, near Umatilla, Ore., develops trades and crafts journeymen to serve in Walla Walla District hydropower facilities.

The program typically graduates five to six apprentices each year. The program is a four-year

training program leading to a journeyman position at a hydropower facility in one of three crafts: electrician, mechanic or operator.

The first year focuses on gaining general hydropower knowledge, after which each student pursues a dedicated craft that signifies the start of a new career.

The next two to three years are spent under the guidance of journeymen and a rigid academic curriculum.

Academic work includes textbook studies, computer-based training and a strong emphasis of hands-on training. During their apprenticeship, students gain work experience at hydroelectric facilities in the district before they join the workforce as crafts persons.

"The power plant apprentice program enables the district to better meet its future craftsman needs. It's a critical part of maintaining a sustainable workforce in highly technical career fields. Apprentices learn from the masters, rather than trying to glean that knowledge out of a book at a later time when the experts may not be here to help them," said Robin Floyd, Walla Walla District's training manager for the program.

"We're excited to welcome these graduates into the ranks of journeymen, and to thank the craftsmen who coached them," she added.



Walla Walla District's maintenance crews from the McNary project rigged and picked the first half of the diffuser ring from fish pump #2 for temporary storage on May 18. After a pre-critical lift meeting prior to, the operation went smoothly. The rotor was removed to access lower components which were in need of repair. (Photos by Terry Zerby)



Benjamin Ashlock, Jason Bohlke, Summer Dellamater, Chris Ensley, Cameron Hulse, Harold Wentworth II (not in order). For more information about the Walla Walla District's Power Plant Apprentice Program, check out our website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/Careers/PowerPlantApprenticeshipProgram.aspx. (Photos by Jeremy Brownfield)

DWORSHAK DAM WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo)

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineer's Dworshak Dam was been selected as an International Milestone High Concrete Dam Project by the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) in partnership with the Chinese Committee on Large Dams (CHINCOLD) and the United States Society on Dams (USSD). Dworshak Dam was one of six international projects nominated for this recognition. An international panel of distinguished experts evaluated the nominated projects and four dams were selected, including Dworshak Dam. The awards ceremony was part of the Plenary Session of the CHINCOLD annual meeting.

N.W. Power Council tours Dworshak Dam



(Photo by Jennifer Allen)

Left: Dworshak Natural Resources Manager Paul Pence explains the Dworshak Nutrient Supplement Program, an ecological restoration project, as part of a day-long tour of the Dworshak Dam's facilities for local Power Council members. Participants toured the visitor center, the powerhouse and several of the recreational spots along the Dworshak pool.



Volunteers repaint Lucky Peak message

Story and Photos by Jennifer McFadden Allen

This event was a partnership effort between Adams Painting, Western Trailers, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce and Boise Young Professionals, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Volunteers carried paint lines and prevented snagging across the dam, held screen boards for letter edging, and assisted with a water/food/comfort station. Over-the-ankle boots were required -- the terrain was steep and rocky. Available shifts were from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Volunteers met at the Lucky Peak Lake Office and were allowed to park free of charge in the Sandy Point parking lot adjacent to the Lake Office and dam. Workers attended a pre-work safety meeting and signed a volunteer services agreement before participating. Picnic-style food and refreshments were also provided for workers.

Originally, a statewide fire prevention campaign spearheaded by the Jaycees, the first painting of this message was applied in 1956 and later refreshed in 1982. Many other locations across Idaho were painted with similar large, bold messages as part of the campaign.



'KEEP YOUR FORESTS GREEN,' at Lucky Peak Dam, on June 11, 2016, spearheaded by Joyce Dunning, Walla Walla District's Natural Resources Management Chief and Mr. Pat Adams, owner of Adams Painting. (Left)



(Above) Volunteers work to freshen up the message that was originally part of a fire prevention campaign during the 50s but continues to be a fixture for locals. (Photos by Jennifer Allen)

Retiree Day

Former employees welcomed back



Hal Thomas briefs navigation issues and the upcoming Dec.-March 14 week-long navigational lock maintenance outage to retirees during Retiree Day.



Dave Trachtenberg discusses avian predation and the steps the Corps took to construct bird habitat in San Francisco Bay.



Retiree Day attendees included (not in order): Mr. and Mrs. G. Dean Hilliard, Mr. Dennis Cannon, Mr. Roy Anderson, Ms. Dora Reyes, Mr. Larry Cheney, Ms. Rose Marie Morrie, Mr. Jim Bluhm, Mr. Robert Bonstead, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bechler, Mr. Gary Willard, Mr. Curtis Lindberg, Mr. and Mrs. James Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Van Stone, Ms. Joan Cheney, and Ms. Shirley Fowler, as well as the District Commander Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa. (Photos by Jennifer Allen)

Distinguished Retiree Wayne H. John



After graduating from Washington State University, Wayne H. John began his federal career in 1970 as an Engineer Trainee for the Bureau of Reclamation's Grand Coulee project where he quickly advanced to supervisor of the Mechanical/Electrical Inspection Section. He transferred to the Corps' Walla Walla District in 1979 where he was assigned to the Lower Granite-Little Goose project.

John served in many District leadership positions including operations project manager for Lower Granite-Little Goose Project; assistant chief, Operations Division; acting operations project manager, Dworshak project, and acting deputy district commander. John then served as chief of Operations Division from 1995 until his retirement in 2007.

John had many notable achievements, such as leading the District's juvenile anadromous fish collection, transportation and research programs. As Chairman of the Power Plant Training Committee, John began recruiting trades and crafts employees from 2-year vocational schools, an innovation that provided greater opportunities for minorities and women. For this and other efforts, he was

recognized in 1983 as the Federal Women's Program Supervisor of the Year for increasing representation of women in the technical workforce.

John graduated from the Engineers and Scientists Executive Development Program in 1995. He was a member of the 1997 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations & Maintenance Cost Saving Task Force.

He initiated the UPTO Partnership Council to improve labor relations. John was also a founding member of the Joint Operating Committee to manage the Federal Columbia River Power System as a business partnership between the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration.

John demonstrated superb technical talent, exceptional leadership qualities, tremendous dedication to the Corps of Engineers, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of all employees.

Mr. Wayne H. John is most deserving of this prestigious award.

John continued a tradition of public service after retiring from the Corps in 2007. He was Chief, Road Operations & Maintenance for Walla Walla County Public Works.



Top: Former Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Timothy Vail honored Wayne H. John, retired Walla Walla District chief of Operations Division, as the Distinguished Civilian Employee of the Year during an award ceremony held June 24 at the District Headquarters in Walla Walla, Washington. (Photo by Jeremy Brownfield)

Natural Resources Management



Top: Bikeriders enjoy a leisurely ride down the Mill Creek project's paved trail.

(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)



Above and Right: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Maintenance Worker Jeremiah Harris puts the finishing touches on a new life-ring station at the Chestnut Recreation Area in Clarkston, Washington. The area was temporarily closed May 31 to enable maintenance staff to replace a 240-foot-long dilapidated rock-and-mortar wall (right), which was falling apart and beginning to pose a safety risk to visitors. Corps staff originally estimated the work would continue until mid-August, but thanks to cooperative weather and ideal work site conditions, the project was completed early. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos by John Gordon)



District revising Lower Granite Lock and Dam's Master Plan

The Walla Walla District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the initial stages of revising the Lower Granite Master Plan.

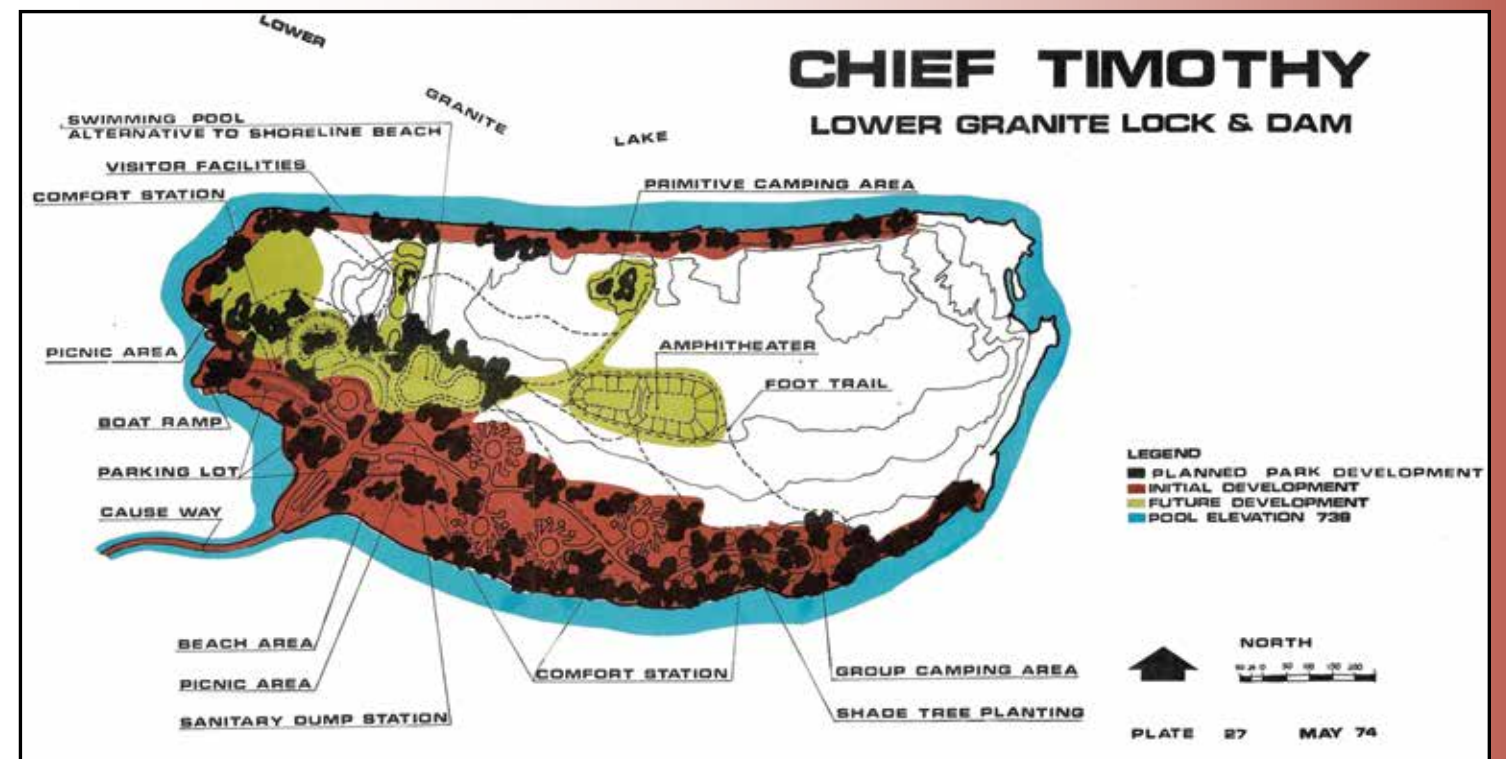
Last completed in 1974, the Lower Granite Master Plan serves the strategic land-use planning document that guides the orderly development, preservation, enhancement, administration and management of all project natural and recreational resources.

Beginning in March of 2017, the Corps will be inviting the public to participate in the revision process by submitting comments regarding the future use of the projects natural and recreational resources.

The planning process will include an analysis of potential effects on the natural and social environment, including fish and wildlife, recreational opportunities, economics, land use, cultural and historic resources, aesthetics, and public health and safety.



The Visitors' Center at Lower Granite Lock and Dam has a lot to offer, including a scale model of the dam (top) and fish models as well (above). (Photos by Jennifer Allen)



Turkey Bowl or Ice Bowl?



The Golden Knights faced off against the Black Knights on a snow covered field in December during the fabled annual Turkey Bowl. When the snow settled, Maj. Ian Davis' Golden Knights were victorious against Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa's Black Knights 21-14. Above: Black Knights quarterback Earl Gaines rolls out in search of a receiver. (Photos by Jennifer Allen)



Left: Kent Bernard makes a leaping sideline catch. Middle: Marcus Ziemke returns a kickoff. Right: Capt. Kyle Shea barely eludes Lt.Col Delarosa's grasp en-route to a score. Bottom, left: Randy Mallo scores the game's first touchdown for the Golden Knights.



Black Knights team roster (red flags): Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa, Andrew Dankel-Ibanez, Kent Bernard, Cpt. Brent Vance, Jon Renholds, Elliot Green, Shawn Nelson, Joe Saxon, David Hoffer, Earl Gains, Tonya French, Rob Reid. Golden Knights team roster (yellow flags): Maj. Ian Davis, Cpt. Kyle Shea, Marcus Ziemke, Jeff Lyon, Joe Bradley, 1LT. Ian Moss, Chris Golden, Carolyn Kloewer, Chris Wernick, Randy Mallo, Craig Newcomb, Chris Russell, Caleb Willard, Eric Rogers.

Big Bunny comes to town



(Photos by Jennifer Allen)



Association of Corps Employees brings holiday cheer and scavenger hunt to Walla Walla District's Family and Friends.

Water Safety



District sponsors

Wear Life Jackets to Work Day



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos)

Corps Day Picnic



Top: Volunteers and Corps children enjoy making large bubbles. Left: Face painting was the highlight of the afternoon for some of the children. Bottom left: Corps employees have a blast in the annual volleyball competition Bottom left: LeAnne Walling enjoys her lunch and spending time with her friends and coworkers. Below: Kids, young and old, enjoy the Corps Day water slide.



Left: Kids and volunteers set up, make and launch 'bottle rockets' at the annual Corps Day Picnic, held at Rooks Park, Mill Creek Project, Walla Walla, Washington. (Photos by Jeremy Brownfield)



Thanksgiving Day meal

There was plenty of food to be had at the annual Thanksgiving Day meal. Jennifer Rand, an Association of Corps Employees member, Alan Feistner, Donna Street and the District's Commander Lt. Col. Damon Delarosa put the finishing touches on this year's spread.

(Photos by Jennifer Allen)



Halloween characters

The cast of Characters were out this year for our annual costume contest. The winners this year were Matt Boudreaux (Fred Flinstone, Wilma, Pebbles and BamBam) and his family.



(Photos by Jennifer Allen)



Above: Jennifer Rand displays some of the gloves and hats donated for local in-need families. Bottom, left: Donations from Walla Walla District employees destined for meals on wheels route residents.



Corps employees honored at Friends Breakfast

Friends of Children of Walla Walla held a breakfast Apr. 26, 2016 to honor local business groups and individuals who donated resources, time or both to the organization. The breakfast, at the Marcus Whitman hotel, honored the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla as "one of their most generous holiday gift givers," said Friends Executive Director Jim Byrnes. Jennifer Rand and Tonya French from the Association of Corps Employees (ACE) accepted the honor. They said, "This holiday season was great, we would like to thank all the generous employees of the Walla Walla USACE. The giving tree donation drive was organized by ACE, which is a non-profit organization run by and for Corps Employees. Through our employee's kindness, generosity, and gift giving ACE put smiles on 47 children's faces this year from Friends of Children of Walla Walla ACE facilitates severable events throughout the year to build morale of our employees and their families, and also gives support to local charities during the holiday season," said Rand.



Walla Walla County Fair Booth

Fairgoers stopped by and received information on the District's recreational activities and flood Control. Mill Creek's Natural Resources staff operated the District's booth at the Walla Walla Fair.

(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photos)

Employees of the Quarter

First Quarter

Annette Crerend provided exceptional support to Ice Harbor Project. During this period she was instrumental in meeting Maintenance Management Improvement Plan (MMIP) initiatives. She directly coordinated with several entities to input accurate data into the Facilities Equipment Management (FEM) system hierarchies. Ms. Crerend received high praise for the support she provided during a recent U.S. Army Audit Agency's maintenance management audit. Ms. Crerend is a tremendous asset to Ice Harbor Project, Walla Walla District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Sharon "Hap" Enzi's willingness to assume additional responsibilities, along with an innate ability to mentor, personal initiative, and devotion to duty are traits that deserve recognition and should be highly considered for Employee of the Quarter. Enthusiastic, motivated and dedicated to provide every district employee with quality information technology assets; worked over weekend to secure more than \$280,000 in Information Technology buys to support the mission – integral in receiving IT assets to support project T3 line installations. Serves as Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for several vital contracts that support all district personnel; CJ Seto, EOS, Ricoh, Lexmark – Plays critical role in ensuring that contractors meet the commitments to the Walla Walla District.

Second Quarter

Dave Schmode is recognized for his extraordinary efforts in support of the Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Phase 1A Upgrade. In addition to his normal duties as Office Engineer which include evaluation and settlement of contract changes, Dave has taken a leadership role in helping to identify and work through critical path schedule issues associated with both the Phase 1A and 1B contracts. He has also made significant contributions toward facilitating communication and coordination between Design and Construction Branches. His efforts have been instrumental in helping to keep the Phase 1A project on track for successful completion. On behalf of the PDT, NWW District and a grateful Nation, we thank Dave for his dedication, integrity and outstanding work ethic.

Dave Teel provided outstanding performance while serving as a Power Plant Mechanic (Dual Rate) at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam. Mr. Teel was instrumental in making critical repairs to the navigation lock's backfill valves. The valves had been inoperable for many years resulting in numerous man hours to properly repair and return the navigation lock to service as scheduled. He provided sound technical support, coordination, and leadership to expeditiously complete the repair, and do so properly. The fact that this hadn't been accomplished at Ice Harbor for over a decade required patience and strong leadership, both of which he provided. His can-do attitude and commitment were not only a huge cost savings to the government, they will prevent the recurrence of similar issues in the future. Mr. Teel's steadfast commitment is a credit to himself, the Walla Walla District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Third Quarter

Charlene Brandon provided exemplary service in her role as the transmittal clerk for the Lower Snake/Columbia Resident Office in Construction Branch, Walla Walla District Headquarters. Ms. Brandon routinely surpassed all expectations in the accomplishment of her duties. She oversaw the process and flow of technical submittals throughout all offices and departments throughout the District for 25 active contracts. She also supported the coordination of project reviews for dozens of developing projects. We thank her for her dedication to the Walla Walla District's priorities.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

OFFICIALLY COMMENDS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER -
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Quarters FY16

Dawn Sonju was instrumental in development of our Project workforce analysis and operating budget. These are routine functions, but with her extensive experience at other facilities we were able to use her experience to expand and improve upon our processes. Also, this quarter Operations Division used her experience to develop an injury reporting SOP for all the operating Projects. Lower Granite had over 20 vacancies over the winter. With Dawn's leadership and guidance to our supervisors we have expedited our recruitments and have our vacancies in the single digits.

Fourth Quarter

Chris Wernick, an archaeologist with the Cultural Resources Section, has distinguished himself within Planning Branch and with our sponsors. He quickly understands complex cultural resource issues, and is always willing to go the "extra mile." When problems arose with cultural clearance for a Section 595 project, Chris dropped everything to drive to Idaho and walk the entire project in question. This kept the project on schedule, and allowed the project engineer to get the work out for bid. Chris has earned the respect of his peers and Tribal representatives. He is a real asset to the Cultural Resources Section, Planning Branch, and the Walla Walla District.

Bill Van Vogt, Lower Granite's lead security guard, always maintains proper security protocols for the Project. Dozens of contractors and thousands of visitors access the facility, and Bill has ensured the facility remained secure. Mr. Van Vogt ensured his staff remained professional and provided a positive interface with the Corps. Bill underwent numerous staffing shortages, yet managed to keep the staff motivated and on point. Bill maintains a positive outlook and is a role model for his staff, letting it be known on a daily basis how happy he is working for the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Van Vogt continues to find the "sweet spot" to ensure Lower Granite's and NWW's success.

Engineering Excellence

Glenn R. Matlock began his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May 2005 with the Walla Walla District. He quickly demonstrated his capacity to learn and eagerness for growth. Seizing the moment to harness Glenn's developing leadership skills, he completed the Leadership Development Program Class of 2007 and has since completed the Regional Leadership Development Program in 2015. Glenn currently serves as the Resident Engineer and ACO for the Lower Snake/ Columbia Resident Office. Mr. Matlock is not being nominated for efforts with regards to one project, but rather his superior efforts in managing the contracts assigned to his resident office as a whole while simultaneously dealing with severe personnel shortages and complex contractual issues. Mr. Matlock is ready with solutions to problems before they reach crisis proportions, and selflessly works overtime on weekends and holidays to ensure the success of his assigned contracts.

Outstanding Achievement, GS9 and Below, GS10 and above, T/C

Bradee Achziger has taken on a leadership role in support of the Office of Counsel (OC). In addition to handling her normal duties of processing FTCA claims and litigation support, Bradee unselfishly and seamlessly accepted additional roles when the senior paralegal took another job. Notably, Bradee administered the Walla Walla's ethics training and OGE 450 program for fiscal year 2016. Bradee's dedication and disciplined research helped the District Counsel make informed decisions on whether a particular employee must file an OGE 450. Even with this very heavy workload, Bradee continues to take initiative by training and mentoring OC's new paralegal in the area of contractor industrial relations and labor investigations. Bradee's positive attitude is the model for Army employees.

Richard Robinson is an Engineering Technician and an exceptional specifier. He is responsible for preparation of countless engineering specifications for construction repair, engineering services, and supply contracts. This year has been robust in the magnitude of contract actions, currently with 27 completed or scheduled contract awards. Rick's greatest effort was that he successfully advanced the District effort to gain buy-in and approval from the Hydraulic Design Center (HDC) to unify engineering specification packages when working as virtual teams. With his hard work and dedication he has developed an approved and agreed upon process which meets both the Walla Walla District's and HDC's engineering design requirements. Rick is an outstanding asset who always puts forth maximum effort. He is able to achieve greatness without external motivation, and consistently concentrates his efforts towards the most important tasks required to meet mission requirements in real time. He works tirelessly and without complaint to do what it takes to ensure the success of our District Missions, whether it requires overtime, or switching gears and changing from his planned duties. Rick is an asset whose positive influence and impact are felt at every level of our organization.

John A. Reeser, Electronic System Control Craftworker (ESCC) at Lower Granite Dam, is nominated for the Outstanding Achievement Award by a Trades and Craft employee. Mr. Reeser is known as a creative problem-solver who is not afraid to tackle the most difficult problems. His "can do" attitude has credited him with many unique solutions over his short career and has quickly gained him a reputation as highly-skilled and ingenious ESCC. His most recent accomplishment was during the upgrade of Lower Granite's sewage treatment plant. It was determined that the repair of the system would cost well over \$40,000 which would have included procuring the software and time for an engineer to configure the software to pull the data. On his own initiative, Mr. Reeser developed a system using Visual Basic and Excel that automatically retrieves the data from the flow meter PLC and records it once an hour. His tenacity and resourcefulness resulted in an efficient system that records the data hourly and saved the taxpayers several thousand dollars. Additionally, the data recorded from this system has been used for troubleshooting purposes and has resulted in repairs which have improved the efficiency of the sewage treatment system.

Public Outreach/ STEM Support

CPT Kyle Shea is a US Army Captain and an Electrical Engineer. He took on the task of leading Engineering Week activities in the Walla Walla District this February 2016. During this time Kyle developed a plan, contacted schools, coordinated schedules for volunteer help, and lead activities at schools for Engineering Week. The Engineering Week competition included 3 schools in the Walla Walla Valley and resulted in more than 80 students participating. An outstanding level of planning, teamwork, and ingenuity was on display at each competition and demonstrated the essential characteristics of future engineers. The competition was for teams of two or three students to build the tallest, strongest tower from only 25 sheets of paper in 20 minutes. All these efforts resulted in a fun and valuable experience for all involved in the Engineering Week activities this year. Design Branch recognizes and greatly appreciates CPT Shea's dedication and willingness to react out to our community and youth.

Support Employee of The Year GS9 and below, GS10 and above

Elisa Huffman has demonstrated exemplary administrative support and exceptional devotion to duty to the Office of Counsel (OC). Elisa has taken on the role of administering the USACE and Army conference policy program for the District. Elisa is the central point of contact for all conference requests that must be approved at the Northwestern Division level or higher. As such, she reviews all conference requests to ensure that they are timely and in conformance with the relevant policies. She also works closely with the NWW-OC attorney responsible for writing the legal memo in support of the conference request. Elisa's ability to professionally coordinate the conference requests and supporting legal memos enhances the District's professional development and outreach goals. Her willingness to take on this additional duty also brings increased efficiency to the process since the two document required by Army conference policy--a conference request and the supporting legal memo--are now fostered through one office, NWW-OC. Elisa's willingness to serve and support brings great credit to the Walla Walla District, the Northwestern Division, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Shontae Williams arrived to the District in February of this year and has already made a tremendous impact on the District. Shontae was hired as the District IT Planner in Mission Support, which is a new position that has no history or precedence to follow on how to accomplish the job. Shontae's presence is being felt in a positive way throughout the District. She is constantly receiving praise from OPM's, DPM, Chiefs and Supervisors as well as District personnel. She has singlehandedly resolved persistent issues of software purchases, computer problems, IT asset management. She has been very successful in getting IT assets to who needs them now.

New Employee of The Year

Bill Powell has hit the ground running since starting in 2015 as a mechanical engineer at Lower Granite Dam. His communication skills, personality, technical knowledge, as well as the way he treats others – have made him a perfect fit at Lower Granite and are the qualities that we look for in new employees. The maintenance crews have all approached Bill for support and he consistently demonstrates his "can do" attitude over and over again. All of these characteristics and examples show that Bill exemplifies the Army values of selfless service and respect. They also show that Bill is prepared to be, and currently is, a leader that is customer focused and can be trusted by all crews at Lower Granite.

PMBP Proponent

Scott Thoren, Ken Koeberling, Joyce McDonald, Hal Thomas, Jeannette

Wilson, and Jean Des Jarlais are nominated for their team effort in developing the NWW Asset Requirement Strategic Plan "roadmap". The roadmap, also call the AM Methodology, documents the Asset Management Section's Vision and Mission then establishes goals, objectives, strategies and action plans by business line. The goals were aligned with the USACE CWs Strategic Plan, BPA Hydro Asset Strategy, and the USACE Budget EC. This was the first, and most difficult step to establishing each BLs 5-year asset plan methodology which describes in detail the goals, objectives, strategies and action plans; requirements prioritization approach; facility priority; asset grouping; and how the 5-year plan will be developed. The Section embraced using a PDT with a sustained commitment to mission-focused planning, effective communications, and knowledge management to document how 5-year plans are developed and maintained for continual improvement using corporate automated information systems as their database of record for the final plans. Scott Thoren is included as the original contributor to the AM Methodology approach and continual ad-hoc advisor to the PDT.

Quality Proponent

Scott Thoren, Jeannette Wilson, Cary Rahn and Carolyn Foote are nominated for the Quality Proponent Award for their team effort in establishing a new process for the development of non-routine requirements which is documented in QMS 8672 Non-Routine Requirements Development. The Project Management Business Process starts with "Work Acceptance" but doesn't address how work, or requirements, are identified and developed for programming. The process which will significantly improve the quality of requirement scopes/costs/schedules will result in improved execution for non-routine projects. The QMS process is unique in that it establishes a new process and provides detailed procedures for developing non-routine requirements at operating projects and field offices. It includes how the requirements are identified; screened; classified as expense or capital; developed for parametric design effort scopes, costs, and schedules for programming; identifies roles and responsibilities; and then accepted as new work for the District to execute via the PMBP. The NRRD process and supporting procedures will improve District planning and execution for non-routine requirements and ensure that available funding is applied to the most suitable investments. It also demonstrates a significant effort across functional elements in the District. The team performed at an exceptional level with high attention to detail and coordination with the PMBP.

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Ruthann Haider

Position: Chief, Contracting Division

Describe your job: I serve as the commander's business advisor on all contractual matters, as well as being responsible for the execution of all contract actions in the District, which totals on average more than \$100M and 1,000 actions each year. I also mentor, train and develop a staff of 30 acquisition professionals.

What are some of the challenges you've faced in your current position? Initially, when I took over in 2010, I was faced with a severe shortage of trained contracting personnel, which led to dissatisfied customers because we were not timely with our work. Now, through a recruitment strategy that incorporates the Pathways program and grade increases for seven journeymen positions on my staff, we are staffed at 90 percent or better and our customers are satisfied with our performance.

Describe accomplishments you've experienced with your job. Our accomplishments are tied to execution of the District's acquisition strategy each year, and our support to the project delivery teams. Each contracting staff member plays a key role in awarding the contracts that are necessary for mission accomplishment. Specific accomplishments that come to mind include Blanket Purchase Agreements for the Operating projects, the dredging contract, the emergency repair contract for the downstream gate at Little Goose and the installation contract for the new turbine runners at Ice Harbor Dam. My staff did an amazing job with these acquisitions, making me very proud to be the District Chief of Contracting.

What is the most rewarding part of your job? Leading the great contracting staff I have in their execution of contracts. They all work so hard and it shows in all that we do. Being their boss is very rewarding.

Please share a notable milestone or memory with the Corps. My little brother is a heavy haul over-the-road truck driver; his work brought him out to Oregon in March of 2015, so he stopped by to visit. I took him out to McNary Dam and gave him a tour of the powerhouse and the navlock. We were conducting our annual navlock outage at the time. He was so impressed, and I was so proud to show him what we do in the Corps of Engineers. That is a great memory with the Corps for me!

