

Charleston

DISTRICT DISPATCH

"Just Doing It"

Vol. 26 No.1

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District

Spring 2003

District Hosts Engineer Week Open House

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**Charleston
District Dispatch**

Volume 26, Number 1
Spring 2003

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ON THE COVER

Mitch Hall, hydraulic engineer, explains to students from Garrett Academy and their teacher what happens during a flood event using the District's 3-D Riverine Model.

Photo by Chad Evangelista.

District Commander's Corner



Lt. Col. Peter W. Mueller
Charleston District Commander

First, I ask that we all continue to keep the members of our Military and other Federal Agencies in our thoughts and prayers as our Nation continues to actively fight the global war on terrorism. Today we have members of the Charleston District deployed in support of military operations and others awaiting movement orders. Many of us also have family members and friends serving in harms way in distant lands. They all deserve our gratitude and strong support!

Next, I have to ask if you have ever sought input from someone on how to improve your golf swing? Ever asked a parent or friend about tips on raising children? Shared experiences concerning the purchase of a new house or car? Surfing the web for information or sought help filing your income tax? Ever wondered if there is a better or more efficient way to get your work done? I expect all of us have solicited views from or shared information with friends, family, or professionals with the intent of improving knowledge or performance. This idea of sharing information to get a jump-start on a new issue, learn, improve performance, or provide others feedback seems instinctive at the individual level – but it is also the

basic concept behind the Army Corps of Engineers' initiative to become a *Learning Organization*.

Newly published Army Corps of Engineers' doctrine states, "*A learning organization systematically learns from its experience of what works, and what does not work. The goal of learning is increased innovation, effectiveness, and performance.*" This concept moves from the individual practice of learning to building a corporate environment that improves our ability to share and learn throughout the Corps.

We have been practicing this idea informally within the Charleston District for quite a while. I see many informal processes for sharing information between individuals, project managers, project delivery teams, and between Districts in South Atlantic Division. The Corps wants and needs to get the "*biggest bang for the buck*" and encourage a broader sharing of lessons. Our District After Action Review (AAR) policy provides a standard process and format to capture and share lessons and is intended to improve our ability to learn.

I can think of many examples of capturing and sharing lessons that we are applying today. The planning and preparation of the Regional Civil Works Conference for July 2003 has relied on the lessons from past years. The start point for our project delivery team has been Savannah District's After Action Review from the 2002 conference. Our annual AAR's conducted for the Project Review Board look at what happened in our annual execution – what went well and what could have gone better – captures lessons and looks at what can be applied for the next fiscal year. The OVEST team has a great ability to capture lessons from one

value engineering study and apply them to subsequent studies. District Quality Assurance inspectors learn lessons in the field that can be applied to the next construction project – passing data to our engineers or support staff to make designs or processes even better in the future. Whether it is preparing for a visit by the Chief of Engineers, planning for a public meeting, developing communications plans for studies and projects, or serving our customers – we can always improve our performance by first reviewing lessons from our own or others experiences.

I still remember a quote on a bulletin board from seventh grade history attributed to Walt Whitman, "*To learn from the mistakes of others is the essential lesson of history!*" Capturing and sharing information and turning that information into value depends on our ability to get the right information to the right person or team. The Corps' Learning Organization Doctrine identifies structures and processes to improve our corporate ability to repeat what we did right and not repeat mistakes of the past.

The doctrine states, "*Learning for the Corps of Engineers occurs every day all over the world. Individuals learn. Work groups learn. Project teams learn. Senior strategic leaders learn. A learning organization makes use of these lessons for the whole organization.*" Our call to action is to embrace this concept. Capturing and applying valuable lessons learned can only improve our ability to **Accomplish Our Mission, Take Care of Our People, Do What's Right...Always Do Our Best, and Have Fun!**

ESSAYONS!

Chief of Engineers visits District

*by Alicia Gregory
Public Affairs*

Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers held a town hall meeting with Charleston District employees January 8.

Opening up the town hall with a cool Army Transformation video, Flowers talked about what he envisioned for the rest of his term as the Chief of Engineers telling District team members that, according to Secretary of the Army Thomas White, “the Corps finest hour is a chapter yet to be written.”

He asked that every employee use the Corps’ Communication Principles and their 30-second commercials to tell the Corps story instead of letting our critics define the Corps.

Through these methods “the Corps can strengthen its relationships with the general public, Congress and the administration.”

The general also discussed how the Corps is a learning organization, and the importance of the Project Management Business Process.

Flowers said that we need to continue to focus on changing the culture of the Corps, to become one team and a learning organization.

“We are getting better from learning from our



District Commander Lt. Col. Peter Mueller presents Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers with a historical book on the Charleston area. Photo by Alicia Gregory.

experiences,” said Flowers. “As a learning organization we will pull our experiences together and share them throughout the Corps.”

You get out of the program what you put into it,” he said. “My objective is to empower the workforce.”

The general also reminded employees to take time to spend with their families and to have fun at their jobs.

“You will have fun in the Corps of Engineers,” Flowers said.

During the town hall meeting the Chief of Engineers recognized several employees for their exceptional endeavors. The employees were Peggy Garten, PM; Travis Hughes, RD; Carl Hilton, IM; Grace Dorn, CT; Sara Brown, TS; and Millard Dowd, TS.

The town hall ended with the crowd going wild over the Chief’s “Like a Rock” video featuring several team members.

During his visit, the Chief of Engineers toured the District headquarters and met with employees at their workstations.

The Chief ended his trip to Charleston by attending not only an after-hours get together with the District Division and Office Chiefs, but also attended a breakfast with first-line supervisors.



Erlene Weathersbee, RM, and Nat Ball, RD, listen intently to the Chief of Engineers. They were among several employees who were invited to have breakfast with Lt. Gen. Flowers. Photo by Alicia Gregory.

District Blessed with Chaplain Call

by Alicia Gregory
Public Affairs

Modern technology helps even the odds of approximately 35,000 Corps employees to one Corps chaplain, according to Chaplain (Col.) Lowell P. Moore, but the Indiana native still tries to meet as many people as he can in person.

And that was what he was doing during his visit to the Charleston District this January.

Although the chaplain uses the email and telephone to contact the masses within the Corps family, he realizes that meeting each person one-on-one is more productive.

"Most of us don't like talking out our problems and sorrows to a stranger, even if the Army has labeled him a chaplain," said Moore. "It is much easier to talk to someone you have met before, especially if you have some confidence in him."

The chaplain knows that making personal contact with each person is impossible, but that

doesn't stop him from trying to meet as many team members as possible.

"I need to get out to get exposure," explained Moore. "This is so the members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will at least know they have a chaplain." He went on to say that if members of the Corps know they have a chaplain, they would know they have the option to contact him if a situation should arise.

The chaplain arrived early at the district to try to meet as many employees as he could in the one day he was in Charleston. He did take a small break, so the senior staff could give him a brief overview of the district, then returned full speed at meeting the Charleston District team.

"I was impressed, and appreciated that he introduced himself to everyone," said Margie Brown, Information Management assistant. Although she didn't know the Corps had a chaplain, she found him very pleasant and personable.

Moore will end his assignment



Chaplain (Col.) Lowell P. Moore

with the Corps this summer, but he said he has enjoyed the time he has spent with team members and feels privileged to have gotten to know so many of them.

"I like my job, I like the Corps, and I like my Corps family," said Moore. "It is fun to see the great people of the Corps, and see the good things they are doing for our nation."

District to Host 2003 SAD Civil Works PDT Conference

The Charleston District is the host District for this year's Regional Civil Works PDT Conference. This will be the fifth year for the conference, which focuses on providing a forum for candid discussion with sponsors, resource agencies and partners, reviewing business processes, evaluating program execution, networking, and sharing lessons learned.

The Conference will take place at the Francis Marion Hotel July 16-18. This year's theme is "Learning from our Past, Sharing Our Present, Preparing for Our Future." The registration fee is \$200 and includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and welcoming ice breaker. The conference program is still being developed, but

the Conference Planning Project Delivery Team expects several panel discussions, breakout sessions and dynamic lunch and dinner speakers.

"We are working really hard to plan a top notch conference," says Project Manager Lisa Metheny. "Everyone is excited about Charleston hosting the conference and we are trying to add a Charleston touch to all parts of the conference, from menu choices to ice breaker activities."

The PDT

members are Lisa Metheny, Alicia Gregory, Barbara Barnette, Chad Evangelista, Amy Henke, Debbie King, Andy Borden, and Suella Smith.

A promotional poster for the 2003 South Atlantic Division Civil Works Project Delivery Team Conference. The poster features a collage of images related to civil works, including a bridge, a dam, and a construction site. The text on the poster reads: "Save the Date! Planning is underway for the next South Atlantic Division Civil Works Project Delivery Team Conference. The conference will be in beautiful Downtown Charleston, SC, at the Francis Marion Hotel July 16-18, 2003. The three-day conference will be a forum for 'Learning From Our Past, Sharing Our Present, and Preparing for Our Future.' Look for a link to the Conference WebSite beginning 1 April at sad.usace.army.mil or from any of the SAD District homepages." The logo for the 89 Army Corps of Engineers is also visible.

An Injury-free Office

Although accidents involving office personnel generally occur less frequently than mishaps to construction workers, the resulting injuries can be just as painful and severe. Each year in the United States between 300 and 400 deaths occur in an office setting. A broken bone sustained from a fall in an office costs just as much to treat as a broken bone caused by a fall in the field. Of course, not all office injuries are serious, but even slight injuries may result in lost workdays, which interfere with our mission. Office safety is everyone's responsibility. It involves two major factors; first, developing team member interest in safe practices both on and off the job; and second, correcting unsafe conditions.

ments on rolling and trolley-type ladders must be checked to make sure they function properly.

Striking against an object can also cause office injuries. These accidents result when team members do not notice open desk or file drawers and other office equipment. Whether seated at your desk or walking, you should be aware that hurrying could produce such injuries. Always walk in designated aisles—avoid shortcuts.

When closing drawers in desks or filing cabinets make sure your hands, with the

help for heavy tasks, you can avoid a serious strain or back injury.

Numerous fires causing loss of life and property have been the result of neglecting some simple fire prevention rules. You should be familiar with fire escapes, fire alarm systems and fire-fighting equipment. By observing strict housekeeping standards, storing flammable substances in approved receptacles and extinguishing matches and cigarette butts before discarding them, the ravaging effects of fire can be minimized.

Through a program of scheduled inspections, unsafe conditions can be recognized and corrected before they lead to serious injuries. Take a few moments each day to walk through your work area. You will be surprised how many unsafe conditions exist. Look for items previously pointed out, such as objects protruding into walkways, file cabinets that are weighted toward the top or frayed electrical cords.

Although many injuries sustained in an office affect only the employee involved, remember that your actions can also affect others. New employees may learn many of their work habits by observing co-workers. Bear in mind that you may be one of those "teachers."

Office safety is everyone's responsibility.

Walking, climbing ladders or stairs and even sitting in a chair—all of these activities can result in an injury. Telephone and electrical cords should not be placed where you or your co-workers could trip over them. Replacement or repair of defective chairs will reduce the number of falls from chairs. Chairs should never be used as ladders. Ladders should be equipped with nonskid material on the feet and treads; they should also be suited for the purpose intended and properly maintained. Braking attach-

ments on rolling and trolley-type ladders must be checked to make sure they function properly. Striking against an object can also cause office injuries. These accidents result when team members do not notice open desk or file drawers and other office equipment. Whether seated at your desk or walking, you should be aware that hurrying could produce such injuries. Always walk in designated aisles—avoid shortcuts. When closing drawers in desks or filing cabinets make sure your hands, with the fingers brought into the palm, are held against the drawer face to avoid catching your fingers. Always use the handle when opening or closing the spring-loaded shelf on a desk; these shelves may open and close rapidly and present a definite hazard. Doors, windows and some office machinery are similar hand traps.

Strains from overexertion often disable employees. These injuries usually occur when employees move heavy or awkward loads. By avoiding sudden movements and getting

“The Souls of Black Folk” is the Theme for Black History Month 2003

*by Gizelle George
Co-op Student*

For almost 77 years, black history has been recognized each February, originally as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.”

Today, the celebration is marked as “National African-American History Month.” It is a history of struggle and accomplishments, of trials and triumphs, and one of endless valuable contributions. Black historian Carter G. Woodson was the first to initiate the observance of black history with his introduction of “Negro History Week” in 1926. Woodson, the son of former slaves, chose the month of February to coincide with the birthdays of Fredrick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, as well as W.E. B. Dubois and Langston Hughes.

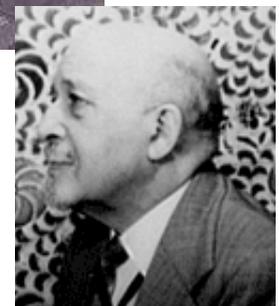
When Negro History Week was recognized for the first time, black history itself had barely begun to be studied, yet, throughout history, African Americans have made significant contributions that have aided in the development and the advancement of the entire human race. In a speech at Hampton in 1921, Woodson addressed the issue; “We have a wonderful history behind us. ...

If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, ‘You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.’ They will say to you, who are you, anyway? Your ancestors have never controlled empires or kingdoms and most of your race have contributed little or nothing to science and philosophy and mathematics.”

African-American contributions are diverse and plentiful. In 1889, John Stanard gave to the world the oil stove and in 1891, the refrigerator. Less than a year later in 1892, George T. Sampson invented the clothes drier and Sarah Boone invented the ironing board. Then in 1893, Thomas Stewart made the mop. Lloyd P. Ray invented the dustpan and John Lee Love, the pencil sharpener in 1897, and John Albert Burr introduced the lawn mower while Leonard C. Bailey pioneered the folding bed in 1899. In 1900, Granville T. Woods invented the incubator and one year later in 1901, he created the Electric Railway. As District Commander Lt. Col. Peter Mueller noted in his memorandum to the District on the observance of Black History month, African Americans were the inventors of several other important pieces. “The electric

lamp, the electric heater, air-conditioning unit, and automatic gear shifts were all invented by African Americans. So too were the comb, the foot warmer, vehicle wheel, shower bath spray, a child’s carriage, dentures, folding chairs, and pipe connection, and these are just to mention a few.”

The theme for this year’s Black History Month celebration is “The Souls of Black Folk Centennial Reflections.” The names of black entrepreneurs, pioneers, inventors, and activists are written all through the course of American and world history. The struggle for equality, acknowledgment and freedom for all continues.



W.E.B. DuBois (both photos) is a civil rights leader and the author of the book “The Souls of Black Folk.”

District's RM Chief Welcomed Onboard

by *Alicia Gregory*
Public Affairs

It seems quite natural that a woman with the maiden name Hunley would move to the Charleston area. And although our new Resource Manager B.J. Fagan doesn't have any proof that she is related to the famous submariner, she finds the connection interesting.

The mother of two young men was brought up in a small town in Middle Tennessee and feels very comfortable living in our historic town.

"I love the lowcountry," said Fagan. "After living in Savannah for eight years, I am very familiar with the weather and the history of the Charleston area."

Most recently Fagan was Nashville District's budget officer for the past two years. Prior to that, she was responsible for Savannah District's operating budget and worked in Savannah's Real Estate Division responsible for planning and funds control.

"I was responsible for a budget of \$80 to \$90 million a year in Real Estate funds," said Fagan. "I moved on to the (Savannah) district's Resource Management department helping them transition to CEFMS when it first came out."

Although she liked the Savannah District, she had to move on to be able to take advantage of more career opportunities in the Nashville

District and to be close to her partner of more than 16 years, George Allwein, who was also a Corps employee.

She credits Allwein for not only her move to Tennessee but also a "force and inspiration behind her growth and success."

His death two years ago was also a catalyst for her move to Charleston.

"It was a traumatic experience for me to lose my partner and mentor," said Fagan. "But in time I felt I could move on, which led me to apply for the position in Charleston."

The Resource Management position was a natural career progression, explained Fagan. "Being a Resource Manager is the top of my career field," said Fagan. "I have a lot of experience in this field and I enjoy learning new things."

In fact, the soft-spoken southerner tends to like change. "I have always volunteered for new things. You learn by getting involved in the process and embracing changes. If it is going to happen anyway, why not make the best of it."

Her philosophy is that how you react to a situation, or the effort you put into it, is everything.

"It is all about the attitude you take into it."

She wants to make sure that team members understand that under the new Project Management Business Process



*Resource Mgmt. Officer
B.J. Fagan*

Resource Management is more than accepting funds and closing accounts.

"We are the financial part of the team and we are there to make sure things are done right," said Fagan.

She said her management style could be called situational management. "I make decisions based on the situation, and look to my team as the experts in their field."

"I am a mentor, teacher, leader and guide to my team," explained Fagan. "I will give my team the leeway to do their job, but also provide the support and guidance they may need to grow."

"I will look at our processes and what is going on in the district, and use my expertise from Savannah and Nashville to try and streamline our processes."

"I am excited to meet the challenges we have before us," said Fagan. "I know that my team and I will be able to meet the challenges together."

Engineer Week Open House Enjoyed by Local Community

by Alicia Gregory
Public Affairs

More than 150 senior high school students, and their teachers, attended the Charleston District Engineer Week Open House, Friday Feb. 21.

“This open house gives you the opportunity to see what we, as Federal Engineers, do for the State of South Carolina and the Nation and hopefully to develop your interest in Engineering,” said District Commander Lt. Col. Peter Mueller to the assembled students. “You represent the future workforce, and Engineers, of our Nation – you will provide the leadership and technical expertise in the years to come and your generation will develop the engineering innovations that will inspire the next generation.”

The event, which was in recognition of National Engineer’s Week 2003, was held from 10 am until 2 pm at the Citadel Alumni Center.

In addition to the high school students, staff from the offices of Senator Lindsey Graham and Congressman Henry Brown attended along with other public officials and members of the general public.



District Commander Lt. Col. Peter Mueller explains his life as a military officer to students from Baptist Hill High School. Photo by Chad Evangelista.



Henry Wigfall, deputy for Small Business, discusses the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ and the Charleston District’s missions and responsibilities to Baptist Hill High School teacher. Photo by Chad Evangelista.

The focus of this event was the education of high school students and the public on what the Corps and the Charleston District does for the State of South Carolina and the Nation

Team members presented several displays and were on hand to discuss each of the District’s mission areas, which include — regulatory and the environment, coastal engineering and flood control, navigation, value engineering, emergency management, and planning assistance to states.

A highlight of the event was an interactive model that demonstrates what happens in a flood plain area.

“The displays were very interesting,” said Steve Price, educational program consultant for Trident Technical College. “I admit I loved the Flood Plain exhibit. The students and guests were sometimes four deep looking on.”

National Engineers Week is an annual event to help raise public awareness and appreciation of engineers and their work.

The National Society of Professional Engineers founded national Engineers Week in 1951.

Employee of the Month



December—

Grace Dorn, Contracting Specialist, CT

Grace is the oldest member of our District, but is one of the most productive and efficient workers in Contracting and possibly the entire District. Grace takes care of inputting time, administering the A&E contract, and processing all small procurements.

In December, she worked diligently with Technical Services Division to purchase an outboard motor for one of our survey boats. After the idea of using a sole-source contract for the contractor who was currently working on the boat was brought up, Grace suggested that she could get it done faster as a small

business set-aside. She got it done in record time plus saved the District a few hundred dollars.

Grace is always on time, always at her desk, never complains, and, like the Energizer Bunny, just keeps going and going. The District is blessed to have such an employee.

January—

Kenneth Millbrook, Survey Tech, TS-ON-S

Kenneth plays a key role on the survey team, and has continually developed and improved his skills using complex electronic equipment and software. This has occurred under the usual tight survey schedules and during a period when the survey party chief was on extended leave due to illness.

Regardless of the weather and location, he can be depended upon to support the mission and complete needed work on schedule.



February—

Alicia Gregory, Public Affairs Officer, PA

Alicia was recognized for the planning and execution of the District's Engineer Open House. The event was a big hit attracting attendance from several high schools, Congressional staffers, the Citadel and the general public. As the District's Public Affairs Officer, she was assigned the task to organize and conduct the Engineer Open House in support of the District's Outreach Program. This gave an opportunity for the public to learn what service the Charleston District provides to South Carolina and what service the US Army Corps of Engineers provides for the Nation. Alicia displayed outstanding leadership skills and excelled in organizing a team with representatives from all the

Divisions in the District. Her efforts earned her commendable remarks from her team, peers, attendees and superiors on a job well done.

SAD Holds Economic Conference

by *Selma Moore*
Planning

On March 5-7, the South Atlantic Division held its Economic Conference in Jekyll Island, Georgia. In attendance were Economists from all 5 SAD Districts, as well as Economists from the New England District, the North Atlantic Division, and the Institute for Water Resources. Policy advisors from Headquarters, USACE were also in attendance.

Topics of discussion included Environmental Outputs and Incremental Analysis, Non-Structural Flood Control, Water Supply Reallocation, Deep-Draft Navigation Planning, and a panel discussion on the Independent Technical Review process and application. A presentation on Shore Protection

Policy by Senior Policy Advisor Harry Shoudy of Headquarters, USACE was a hot topic of discussion at this year's conference, so was Planning Enhancements for the South Atlantic Division presented by SAD Planning Chief, Wilbert Paynes.

Paynes highlighted the key components of the Planning Excellence Program for SAD. The mission of the Planning Excellence Program is to improve and sustain the regional capability of the Corps to conduct effective and efficient critical water resources planning. Envisioned for the program is an SAD Planning Expertise Center under which there will be Planning Expertise Teams concentrated in one physical location per major mission area within the division. These teams will assist PDTs in each district in the areas of deep-draft navigation (Mobile

District), hurricane and storm damage protection (Wilmington District), and ecosystem restoration (Jacksonville District).

The conference closed with a summary of the three main challenges for Corps Economists, which were identified as maintaining a sufficient workload, preserving high standards of quality, and suitably justifying projects. SAD was very pleased with each of the district's participation and the conference was considered a success by all of the attendees. The most notable outcome of the conference was the opportunity to foster professional relationships across SAD and the Corps as a whole. These relationships will undoubtedly encourage knowledge-sharing and will be essential in moving the Corps towards becoming a learning organization.

Hunting Island's Cabin Road is ready for Summer Season

Marinex Construction has completed sand placement along Cabin Road and is currently completing the final shaping of the protective berm and debris removal from the South Beach parking lot.

Construction has progressed more quickly than originally projected thanks to the contractor's efforts and favorable weather conditions.

On March 7, Charleston District team members, Commander Lt. Col. Peter Mueller (right), Deputy for Programs and Project Management Elmer Schwingen and Project Manager Jim Whiteman met with Congressman Joseph Wilson (center) and his staff; and South

Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism Asst. Director Phil Gaines and SCPRT staff to brief them on the status of the Corps' initiatives at Hunting Island.

"Congressman Wilson is very pleased with our response to the water resource needs at Hunting Island and remains highly interested in the progress and execution of the Hunting Island Section 206 Ecosystem Restoration study," said Whiteman.



EEO Info

by Gizelle George
Co-op Student

Women's suffrage movement was a mass political movement that took seventy years. Fifty of those years were spent educating the public, while the remaining twenty was spent getting congress to sign the bill. In 1848, the resolution calling for woman suffrage was passed. That same year, the Declaration of Sentiment was introduced to the world, a document based on the Declaration of Independence- "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men *[and women]* are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." In 1872, Susan B. Anthony, legendary American civil rights leader was arrested for voting in Rochester, New York. Anthony's words, "Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty," live on even today. But, it wasn't until the year 1919 that congress passed the nineteenth amendment to the constitution, granting women the right to vote, and in 1933, through the promptings of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, many women gained jobs at Federal social services bureaus.

These were just some of the things that guest speaker Anne

District Luncheon Teaches a Lesson in Women's History

Frances Bleecker covered during her speech to District team members at the Special Programs Committee sponsored luncheon, "Women Pioneering the Future", held at the Citadel Alumni building on March 3, 2003. Bleecker, a Family Court lawyer with her own practice, and member of the Charleston City Council, is also a wife and the mother of two. Bleecker captivated the audience with her

historically grounded and well articulated message on women's fight for equality and sovereignty in the United States.

According to Bleecker, studies show that even today, young women tend to believe that men are better leaders. Because of this and other reasons, women are often less likely to *choose* to serve in a political capacity, yet 54% of voters in this country are women and statistics have confirmed that women prefer to vote for other women. "Those who remain apathetic and think it does not matter who wins or who does not win, could not be more wrong," Bleecker said. "People elected in public office can create a problem, or be the solution to the problem." Bleecker told members in attendance that women leaders often maintained strong focus on the results as well as the people



District Commander Lt. Col. Mueller introduces Women's History Luncheon speaker Anne Frances Bleecker. Photo by Chad Evangelista

surrounding them. She encouraged women leaders to know who they are, value who they are and tell others about it. She added, "Women leaders should not aspire to be like men," rather, they "should use their life experiences as mothers, wives, political activist..." to make decisions and lead.

District Engineer, Lt. Col. Peter Mueller, also encouraged members to "honor the women in our lives; those women who have impacted our own personal histories as we write them -our mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts and daughters, the housewives, teachers, policewomen, the military personnel, the doctors, the ministers, employers, employees and co-workers..." as "...they too, have a story."

Secretary of Defense Message on the Global War on Terrorism

For more than a year, the brave men and women of the U.S. military, together with their civilian counterparts in the Department of Defense, have been working to preserve peace and defend freedom against terrorist forces and those who would harbor and protect them around the world.

To each of you, and your families, we express our profound gratitude and appreciation for the

To each of you, and your families, we express our profound gratitude and appreciation for the risks you undertake and the sacrifices you make so that all Americans can enjoy the blessings of freedom.

risks you undertake and the sacrifices you make so that all Americans can enjoy the blessings of freedom.

This war, as the president has said, is not one of our making. It was thrust upon us. We act in self-defense — in deliberate response to acts of war directed against the American people, and to prevent future acts from claiming even more innocent lives. We are engaged in a global war, and it is being waged on many fronts using all the instruments of national power.

In recent weeks and months, the president has called the world's attention to Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. He has rallied the United Nations to enforce its resolutions calling for the regime's disarmament. To assist this diplomatic offensive and to preserve future options, adjustments to current mobilization, deployment and rotation cycles may be necessary, adjustments that may mean longer tours of duty than you may have

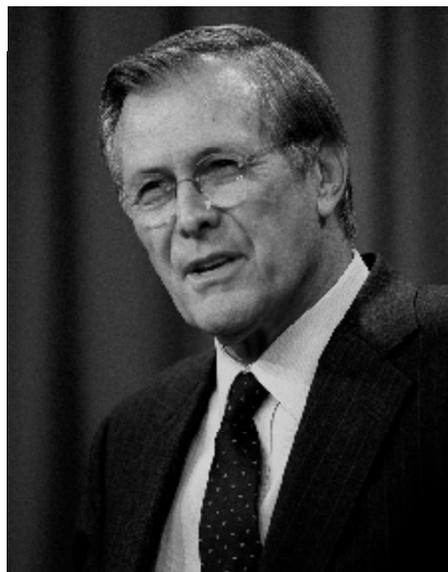
expected.

While the times, places and conditions of deployment cannot be precisely known, we do recognize the uncertainty these circumstances may create for those in uniform, the civilians who work beside them, and the families and loved ones, without whose support their sacrifices would not be possible.

I know the secretaries and chiefs of the military services are communicating with you in greater detail about these matters, but I want you to know that understanding the impacts of these deployments is important to us.

Be assured that the president will not decide to commit forces unless conditions require it, and only as a last resort. Should action be necessary, you will have what you need to carry out the missions assigned. Thank you for all you do for our nation and the world.

Donald H. Rumsfeld



Scholarship Fund Gets Cold Cash For Hot Lunch

by Lisa Metheny
Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee has been busy over the past several months, feeding the District scrumptious lunches and raising money to support the scholarships that will be given out at Corps Day. The District's hottest event, the Chili Cook-off, was preceded by a lunch and bake sale.

Quickly becoming a District favorite event, the Spaghetti Lunch in January raised over \$100 for the fund. Jim Whiteman (PM-T), at the bequest of many people, again provided a pot of sauce, as did Rose Smalls of CT and Lisa Metheny of PM-T. A total of 34 lunches were served, down from the average attendance of 50. But those that attended enjoyed the fare. "I look forward to this every year. I wish I could make sauce like this," said one attendee.

Valentine's Day is a day of sweets and in that tradition the Committee tempted people with homemade baked goods at the semiannual bake sale. "We are trying to have some events that are held every year at the same time so it will be part of people's routine," says Committee Chair Lisa Metheny. "We have had a bake sale at Valentine's Day and Halloween for the past three years and I think people really look forward to them. There was some concern that since Castle Club has their bake sale two weeks before people might be tired of sweets, but that turned out not to be the case."

The Committee's biggest event,

the Annual Chili Cook-off, was held on February 25. Originally a Castle Club event many years ago, the cook-off has proven to be the mother lode of fund-raisers for the Committee.

This year's event raised over \$600 for the fund. This year's cook-off winners were First Prize, Alicia Gregory (PA), Second Prize, Joe Wilson (TS-ON) and Third Prize, Lt. Col. Peter Mueller.

"The cook-off is really more of an event than a lunch," says committee

member Mitch Hall. "The cook-off is a friendly competition and provides lunch for everyone, but it's the giveaways everyone comes to see." And this year's giveaway items were top notch. In addition to the usual gift certificates for restaurants and home improvement stores, several employees and one retiree donated personal gifts. As has become the custom, Robin Crosby (OC) donated another one of her beautiful hand made quilts. Dianne McManus (TS) donated a lovely hand made wreath and Suella Smith (RM) donated a

lovely Spring Centerpiece. Donating their services were Planning Chief Joe Jones, a home pressure washing session, and Ted Hauser (PM-T), \$50 worth of tax preparation services.

Upcoming events for the Committee include an April Fool's Day Breakfast and Book Sale, T-Shirt Sales, as well as Hamburger, Hot Dog and Taco Lunches. The Committee's goal is to raise \$3,100 by Corps Day in anticipation of funding 14

scholarships.

Applications for scholarships will be distributed in May.

Giveaway Winners

•Lighthouse Quilt by Robin Crosby -

Barbara Britz

•Decorative Wreath by Dianne McManus -

Marshelle Grant (CT)

•Decorative Spring Basket Centerpiece by Suella Smith -

Dianne McManus (TS)

•50 Egg Rolls -

Jimmy Hadden (PM)

•Coconut Cake by

Mary Sue Doran - **Ryan Tuck**

•Two Gift Certificates to Just Fresh - **Cindy Biller (LM)**

•\$20 Gift Certificate to Tommy

Condon's - **Elmer Schwingen (PM)**

•Briefcase plus \$50 worth of tax preparation by Ted Hauser - **Suella Smith (RM)**

•House Pressure Washing by Joe Jones - **Jackie Graham (RM)**

•\$20 Gift Card to Home Depot and

Lowes - **Erlene Weathersbee (RM)**

•\$20 Gift Card to Walmart plus six

Free Games of Bowling - **Suella Smith (RM)**



Team members picked their choice of chili, or bought a chili sampler, at the Chili Cook-off. Photo by Chad Evangelista.

Shades of Green at Disney World Taking Reservations for December Reopening

American Forces Press Service

Reservation lines are open for the Dec. 15 reopening of a new, improved Armed Forces Recreation Center Shades of Green hotel on Walt Disney World Resort here.

Shades of Green has been closed for expansion and complete renovation since early 2002. Meanwhile, guests eligible to stay there have been booked into Disney's Contemporary Resort at Shades of Green's daily rates. The rates are based on rank from a low of \$66 for E-1s through E-5s to \$99 for senior officers. The range starting Dec. 15 will be \$70 to \$116.

"We've already booked our first military wedding on Dec. 29 for 250 people," said Jim McCrindle, the hotel's general manager since it opened in 1994.

When Shades of Green reopens, he said, it will have double the guest space at 586 rooms, a new 500-space parking garage and 7,500 square feet of flexible special-event space for reunions, weddings and other family-oriented social functions. There will be 11 suites, up from just one.

He said more rooms will conform to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. "We had handicapped-accessible rooms before, but now we will have bona fide ADA-designed and equipped rooms with the wider bathroom doors and the roll-in showers," he said. Nine of the existing rooms were completely renovated to ADA standards.

The near-two-year project includes complete makeovers of all the existing rooms to the same standards as the new ones — new carpet, paint, curtains, mattresses and bedspreads.

"All the rooms are exactly the same size and everything is brand new," McCrindle said. In essence, he said, guests who want a new room don't have to ask — every room will be new.

All rooms will have standard amenities such as ironing boards and televisions, but there will be some new twists — refrigerators, wireless TV keyboards and 12 hours of Internet access for about \$6. Guests will be able to play TV video games, in-room movies and order attraction tickets online from the hotel's tickets and tours office.

The hotel restaurants are being remodeled. The four include a new Northern Italian-themed trattoria. Shades of Green has two heated swimming pools, a kiddie pool, play area and tennis courts. It's situated

among three Walt Disney World Resort golf courses: two 18-hole championship courses and a nine-hole executive course with discounted greens fees for military players. Free shuttle bus service transports guests to and from Disney attractions.

The hotel has operated at or near 100 percent occupancy from the moment its doors opened, McCrindle said. Guests who could not be housed at Shades of Green were placed in other hotels on and off the Disney resort. Customer demand has been so high, it's spurred the whole expansion project, he said.

Shades of Green is financially self-sustaining; no taxpayer dollars are used for operations. The hotel expansion is funded by a civilian commercial loan.

For more details or to make reservations [<http://www.armymwr.com/shades/index.html>], visit www.shadesofgreen.org or www.armymwr.com/shades/index.html, or call toll-free 1-888-593-2242.

"The best way to make a reservation is to use the Web site," McCrindle suggested. "That way, you're guaranteed a response within 72 hours. Give alternate dates to your first choice." The phones tend to be overloaded, he added.

The Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va., operates the four Armed Forces Recreation Centers as the Defense Department's executive agent. The other three are the Hale Koa Hotel [<http://www.halekoa.com>] on Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii; the Dragon Hill Lodge [<http://www.dragonhilllodge.com>] in the Yongsan area of Seoul, South Korea; and AFRC-Europe

[<http://www.afrceurope.com>.], which has Bavarian resorts in Chiemsee and Garmisch, Germany.

AFRCs are open to DoD identification card holders in all the active and reserve components, active members of the other uniformed services, active DoD civilians assigned outside the United States, military and DoD civilian retirees, and their families. Also eligible are several other smaller groups, such as Medal of Honor recipients and 100-percent disabled veterans.



Around the District

Congratulations

...to **Erlene Weathersbee**, RM, on the birth of her granddaughter, Amanda, who was born Nov. 7. The baby weighed 5 lbs. 7 ozs.

...to **Lynda Daniel**, EO, on the birth of her grandson, Preston James Scott, born Feb. 21. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 7 ozs.

...to Christina Goodwin, daughter of **Ted Hauser**, PM. Christina has been nominated to serve as a Delegate to the 2003 International Mission on Education.

This is in recognition of her scholastic achievements at the College of Charleston where Christina is a Junior majoring in Elementary Education. The delegates will visit Australia this summer and explore that country's educational system.

... to Kellye, daughter of **Don Hill**, RD, on her marriage to Matt Brodbeck on Feb. 2 in a ceremony at *The Battery*. Matt is a Corporal in the U.S. Marines and is stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, S.C.

...to Wulf Judy, son of Wayne and **Marlene Judy**, EM. Wulf won first place in the St. Johns Christian Academy Middle School literary competition.

...to Patrick Wilson, son of **Joe Wilson**, TS. Patrick, who is attending College of Charleston obtained a 3.2 GPA his first semester.

...to **Mary Scianna**, former student aide in Planning Division. Mary received her master's degree in Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston last December.

...to Brandon Driscoll, son of **Bob Driscoll**, CT. Brandon received a trophy for completing his first Junior Motorcycle Enduro.

...to Laurah and **George Ebai**, PM, on the birth of their daughter, Susan, born Mar. 13. the baby weighted 8 lbs. 1 oz.

Condolences

James "Jamie" Michael Rollins, nephew of **Margie Brown**, IM, died Feb. 10. Jamie served as the Lowcountry Poster Child for Muscular Dystrophy in 1988, as as the State of South Carolina Poster Child for Muscular Dystrophy in 1989 and 1990.

Ernest B. Stenmark, father of **Kent Stenmark**, EM, died Dec. 31. Mr. Stenmark was a retired Department of the Army civilian with 32 years of service as a Research Meteorologist.

Thomas Lybarger, father of **Alicia Gregory**, PA, died Jan. 18.

Iva Heath, mother of **Cindy Biller**, LM, died Mar. 17.

Dorothy Veal, mother of **Fred Veal**, RD, died Mar. 8.

Transfers

Philip Wolf transferred from the Low Country Resident Office to Planning on Jan. 13. Along with the move, he was promoted.

Promotions

Diresert Haynes	RD
Catherine Jordan	RD
Trisha Miller	RD
Angela Williams	LM
Selma Moore	PM

Goodbye

Eugene Maak	PM
Elmo Harrison, Jr.	RM

Welcome

Colton Bowles	RD
Jonathan Bridgeman	TS-ON
B.J. Fagan	RM