

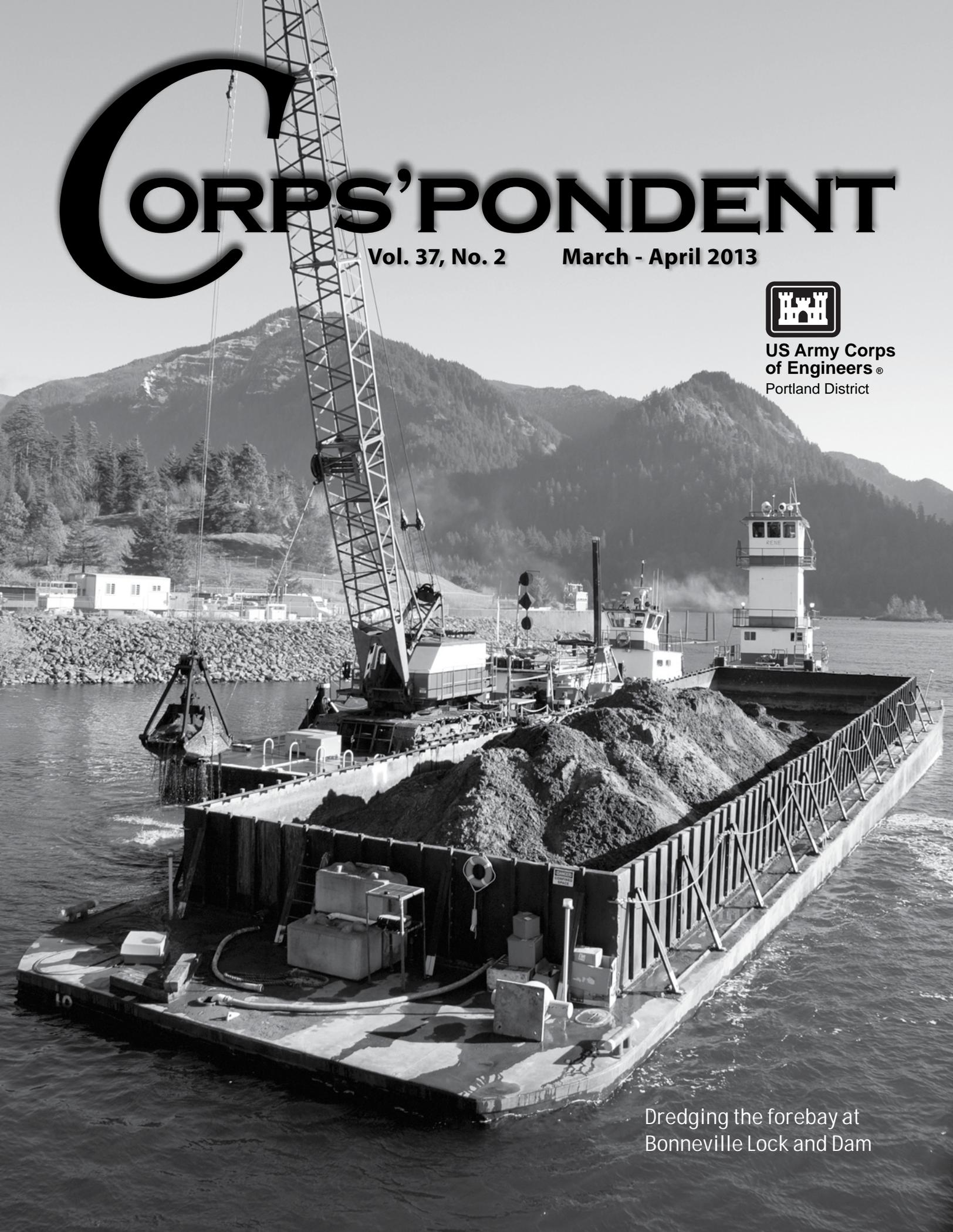
# CORPS' PONDENT

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March - April 2013



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District



Dredging the forebay at  
Bonneville Lock and Dam



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## Commander's Column

### Budget challenges and impacts on employees

As I sit down to write this article, I understand and appreciate the impacts our national debt and budgetary impacts have on our employees. With the firm travel restrictions, hiring freezes, training restrictions and threats of furlough, these are trying times. Despite the frustrations of not knowing how the looming prospect of furlough would impact you, you continue to focus on the mission with an eye toward getting the job done. I truly appreciate that, and would ask you to continue your efforts as we accomplish our missions for the Nation and implement evolving guidance.

Many of you are following the media reports surrounding our current fiscal condition, as well as rumors and uncertainties. The media has been reporting on POSSIBLE impacts to various federal departments and agencies, should our national leaders not resolve our fiscal uncertainties. The Corps is caught up in these uncertainties. Among the most concerning of these uncertainties was the possibility of a furlough of our employees for 22 days between now and the end of the fiscal year. In February, we began discussions with our various unions regarding notification of employees should a furlough be implemented, how to manage furlough days, and identification of mission critical positions that we may seek to exempt from a furlough. Many of these outcomes are beyond our control, but we are working within our agency

to position ourselves to protect our employees from these impacts as best we can and still accomplish our mission. The good news is that the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) recently published guidance to exempt non-DOD funded employees from furlough. This covers all but 33 of our employees, who may still be impacted based on this guidance SHOULD an administrative furlough be implemented. Employees within ULA, CPAC, ACE-IT, and DA Interns are directly paid via DOD funds. To those employees – and I've talked to many of you – know that your leadership is exploring all avenues to ensure we attain a just outcome.

We have faced these challenges before with positive outcomes. Note that, though the government has shut down temporarily in the past; an administrative furlough has never been implemented. It is both my hope and desire that our national leaders will be able to come to a solution that is not groundbreaking (i.e., be able to avoid a furlough of our employees). A positive sign is that, as of this writing (March 22), DOD has delayed any notification of furlough to employees for a period of two weeks as they seek to determine if that notification needs to occur. As with past fiscal challenges, such as the one we experienced just two years ago, or the Y2K uncertainty more than a decade ago, we won't know the exact impacts until the time arrives.



**Col. John Eisenhauer, P.E.**

Both past and present chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have stated that our national debt is our greatest national security threat. That should be enough to convince anyone that it is critical that our national leadership address this threat now before it leads to any crisis situation in other elements of national power (diplomatic, informational, Military). As a District, we are pulling together to ready ourselves as best we can and as employees of the Portland District you contribute to our success. You each do this by doing your part every day to accomplish our mission for the nation in the best way possible within the constraints we've been given. The one thing that's certain is that the future is uncertain, and we can only control the things within our control. To date, you have stayed focused on our mission. For that I again thank each of you for your efforts; especially during these challenging times. 

*COL Ike*

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**Commander: Col. John Eisenhauer, P.E.**  
**Chief, Public Affairs: Matt Rabe**  
**Editor: Erica Jensen**





## Salina Hart, Civil Engineer, P.E. Dam Safety Section, Engineering and Construction Division



### Describe your job?

My section name explains it pretty well ... Dam Safety. I work with other engineering and project personnel to inspect our dams to ensure they continue to operate as designed. I have inspected all Portland District dams and even a few for the Walla Walla District. Lately my work has focused on dams in the Willamette Valley and Rogue River areas.

### How does your job fit into our District mission?

My job contributes to the District's mission in many areas, but one primary way is flood risk management. I work closely with Operations Division staff to ensure that Portland District dams operate as designed to protect those who live and work downstream.

### What do you find most rewarding about your job?

I like the variety of work. I frequently get out of the office and perform inspections locally and with other districts.

### What challenges do you encounter when doing your job?

Dam Safety has routine work that is scheduled throughout the year, but on a daily basis, there are often new items that come up that need immediate attention. One challenge that comes to mind is that dam documentation is scattered throughout the District – which makes it difficult for our section, since risk assessments for dam conditions are based on design and construction history. As a solution, we are working with engineering offices and operating projects across the District to gather and scan documentation onto the LAN and into Projectwise for everyone to use.

### What are your career aspirations and how are you preparing to accomplish them?

I feel as if I have met my aspirations. I love what I do! I hope to continue being on new project development teams and taking on more technical lead positions.

### What is the craziest thing you've ever done?

I don't feel like I do crazy things, but I have done a few things outside of my comfort zone. I have encountered some extreme roller coasters, four-wheeled high elevation sand dunes in Christmas Valley and zip-lined across Maui valleys. I also ran my first 8k, 10k and half marathon all within the same year. At work, inspecting powerhouse draft tubes and tight-fitting navigation lock laterals can be daunting.



Corps of Engineers photo

## Dedication of D.H. Larsen Memorial Court



Photo by Greg Volkman, The Dalles Lock and Dam

**David Larsen**, a former chief of The Dalles and John Day dams in the 1960s was honored at John Day Dam March 2.

Family, friends and Corps employees gathered to remember Larsen, who died July 19, 2011, at the dedication of the D.H. Larsen Memorial Court, a street and parking area on the east side of the John Day Dam.

David Larsen managed The Dalles and John Day dams from 1968 to 1980, and was the first manager of John Day Dam when it began operating in 1968. He retired after 28 years of civil service and lived in The Dalles until his death.

Whenever employees travel along D.H. Larsen Memorial Court, they will know it was named for John Day's first operations manager.

## Portland District celebrates Earth Day April 22



### Bonneville Lock and Dam

Dallesport Elementary 5th and 6th grade students and teachers will work with Bonneville park rangers, April 17 for an Earth Day Celebration/Sustaining Oregon's Legacy by Volunteering (SOLV). Students will learn about the Corps mission and gain a better understanding environmental stewardship while working with ranger staff to plant native vegetation and remove litter.

### The Dalles Lock and Dam

Park rangers will host a spring clean up at 8:30 a.m., April 20, in the historic Seufert rose garden – a unique turn-of-the-century garden which is home to a wide variety of antique roses. Volunteers are needed to help pull weeds, prune and offer a little tender loving care. Register at the visitor center.



Corps of Engineers photos

### Willamette Valley Project

Students from Lowell schools will be at the Middle Fork boat ramp, near Dexter Dam, April 17 to help with invasive weed removal. Park rangers are looking forward to the enthusiasm of the young helpers, but the weeds are very nervous.

Students from Lincoln Middle School will participate in a Day of Caring at Cottage Grove Lake, April 26. They will remove weeds, spread bark, and help park rangers spruce up the campground.

Above left: Fort Cascades Trail, Bonneville Lock and Dam  
Above right: Seufert rose garden, The Dalles Lock and Dam



## Highlights in the history of military women

Courtesy of the Women in Military Service to America Memorial Foundation, Inc. Find more highlights at [www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org)

### American Revolution (1775-1783):

Women serve on the battlefield as nurses, water bearers, cooks, laundresses and saboteurs.

**War of 1812:** Mary Marshall and Mary Allen nurse aboard Commodore Stephen Decatur's ship United States.

### Mexican War (1846-1848):

Elizabeth Newcom enlists in Company D of the Missouri Volunteer Infantry as Bill Newcom. She marches 600 miles from Missouri to winter camp at Pueblo, Colo., before she is discovered to be a woman and discharged.

### Civil War (1861-1865):

Women provide casualty care and nursing to Union and Confederate troops at field hospitals and on the Union Hospital Ship Red Rover. Women soldiers on both sides disguise themselves as men in order to serve.

**1865:** Dr. Mary Walker receives the Medal of Honor. She is the only woman to receive the nation's highest military honor.

### Spanish-American War (1898):

1,500 civilian nurses under contract to the U.S. Army are assigned to Army hospitals in the US, Hawaii, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines, as well as to the Hospital Ship Relief.

**1901:** Army Nurse Corps is established.

**1908:** Navy Nurse Corps is established.

# Women serving America

## Value of military experience evident in service to the Corps

By Michelle Helms, Public Affairs Office

I made history in 1985 when I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. It was family history, so you probably didn't hear about it. My grandfather, my father, an uncle and several cousins are also veterans, but I am the first woman veteran in my family tree. I'm proud of my military heritage and that my service is part of our nation's military history.

Of the nearly 500 military veterans working in the Portland District, 46 are women. Some are currently serving; some enlisted when women had limited career choices; others served at a time when women had to choose between service and motherhood. Women's opportunities and options have grown over the years, including very recently when the Department of Defense opened some combat-related careers to women.

Here are four women veterans in the Portland District who served in different military branches, during different periods of women's recent military history. Each has her own story and all are rightfully proud of their service to this nation.

Tech. Sgt. Jaime Menagh  
U.S. Air Force Reserve

*Jaime Menagh enlisted in the Air Force in January 2001 and worked as an aerospace ground equipment mechanic. She left active duty in February 2007, enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in June 2009 and is an aircraft load planner. One of her favorite service memories is when her younger brother, Phil, who was a freshman in high school when she enlisted and is now an Air Force captain, administered the oath of enlistment when she joined the Reserves.*

**Where were you stationed?** Texas, New Mexico, Korea, Japan and Washington

**Why did you choose to serve in the U.S. military?** I joined the military to honor my family tradition of service and to earn education benefits through the G.I. Bill. I also wanted the priceless education which is learned through world travel, overcoming adversity and working side by side with people from different walks of life. I chose the Air Force based on the Air Force's focus on education and training, professionalism and equal opportunity.

**What lessons did you take away from your service?** I learned a lot of things, but one of the more valuable lessons is not to be afraid to ask for help if you get in over your head.

**What about your service makes you most proud?** I am proud to be someone who is reliable and knowledgeable in my field; someone others look to for answers.

**What advice would you give your younger self, the one just entering the service?** I would say "Jaime, take more math classes while they're free!"

*Jaime Menagh has worked for the Portland District for three years and is the records coordinator in the Engineering and Construction Division, Technical Resources Branch.*



Photo provided by Jaime Menagh, Engineering and Construction Division

Staff Sgt. (Retired) Leisha Leyson  
Oregon Army National Guard

*Leisha Leyson enlisted in the Arizona Army National Guard in May 1987, and transferred to the Oregon Army National Guard in 1989. In the mid 1980s, military career opportunities for women were beginning to broaden but were still limited. Leyson said she originally wanted to be part of the military police, but there was a height requirement to be an MP and at 5'2" she was too short! Instead, she entered the Equipment Records and Part Specialist Military Occupational Skill, which is now called automated log specialist.*

**Why did you choose to serve in the U.S. military?** I was studying pre-veterinarian medicine and student loans were piling up. I saw a National Guard commercial that said that they would pay for college, and the next day I went to see a recruiter to see what they could offer.

**What lessons did you take away from your service?** The lesson I took away from my military service is I can do anything that I put my mind to and I can do it very well. I learned to take the initiative, move forward in a positive manner and to always have a plan.

**What is your favorite memory?** My favorite memory is when my husband, Ken, and I were promoted in a combined ceremony, him to master sergeant and me to staff sergeant. Both our brigade commanders and our command sergeant majors promoted us in front of our family and my husband's unit. Being promoted with my husband by my side, by soldiers I looked up to was definitely a highlight in my career.



**What about your service makes you most proud?** Taking care of soldiers! At the start of the Iraq war I was asked by the Adjutant General to work with the Family Coordinators to ensure families of deployed Soldiers were taken care of. By taking care of the families, these same Soldiers could concentrate on their mission and not worry so much about issues at home.

*Leisha Leyson has worked in the Portland District for four years and is an administrative support assistant for the Channels and Harbors Project of the Operations Division.*

Tech Sgt. Terri Cote  
U.S. Air Force Reserve

*Terri Cote enlisted in the Air Force July 23, 1997. She has been stationed in Colorado and Texas and currently serves with the 304th Rescue Squadron at the Portland Air National Guard Base, and is an aircrew flight equipment technician, also referred to as a Rigger. She inspects, maintains and repairs life saving equipment to include packing multiple parachute systems.*



**Why did you choose to serve in the U.S. military?** As a young girl I had the great privilege of living at the U.S. Air Force Academy and often found myself hanging out at the cadet parade



Photos provided by Leisha Leyson, Channels and Harbors Project

**World War I (1917-1918):** More than 35,000 women serve as nurses, telephone operators, stenographers and yeomen stateside and overseas.

**Army Reorganization Act (1920):** A provision of the Army Reorganization Act grants military nurses the status of officers with "relative rank" from second lieutenant to major, but do not grant full rights and privileges.

**World War II (1941-1945):** More than 60,000 Army nurses and more than 14,000 Navy nurses serve stateside, overseas and aboard ships.

**1942:** Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later the Women's Army Corps, established. Women Airforce Service Pilots, the WASPs, are organized and fly as civil service pilots.

Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, the WAVES, established by the Navy. Coast Guard's women's reserve, known as the SPARs, established.

**1943:** Marine Corps Women's Reserve established

**1947:** Army-Navy Nurse Act makes the Army Nurse Corps and Women's Medical Specialist Corps part of the Regular Army; gives permanent commissioned officer status to Army and Navy nurses.

**1948:** The Women's Armed Services Integration Act grants women permanent status in the Regular and Reserve forces of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps as well as in the newly created Air Force. Executive Order 9981 ends racial segregation in the armed services.

**1949:** Air Force Nurse Corps established



**Korean War (1950-1953):** Reserve servicewomen are involuntarily recalled to active duty.

**1953:** The first woman physician is commissioned as a medical officer in the Regular Army. Navy Hospital Corps women are assigned positions aboard Military Sea Transportation Service ships for the first time.

**1958:** Military nurses are assigned to the hospitals which deploy during the Lebanon crisis.

**1965:** First woman Marine assigned to attaché duty. Later, she is the first woman Marine to serve under hostile fire.

**Vietnam War (1965-1975):** Some 7,000 American military women serve in Southeast Asia, the majority of them nurses.

**1967:** Legal provisions placing a two percent cap on the number of women serving and a ceiling on the highest grade a woman can achieve are repealed.

**1969:** Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps opens to women.

**1970:** The first women in the history of the armed forces, the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps and the Women's Army Corps Director, are promoted to brigadier general.

**1971:** An Air Force woman becomes the first woman aircraft maintenance officer. The first woman is assigned as a flight surgeon in the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve. A staff sergeant becomes the first female technician in the Air Force Reserve.

**1972:** The Reserve Officer Training Corps is opened to Army and Navy women.

**1973:** The first Navy women earn military pilot wings and the Navy accepts its first woman chaplain.

**1974:** An Army woman becomes the first woman military helicopter pilot.

**1976:** Women are admitted to the service academies. The Air Force selects the first woman reservist for the undergraduate pilot training program.

**1977:** The first Coast Guard women are assigned to sea duty as crew members aboard the Morgenthau and Gallatin. Military veteran status is granted to WASPs who flew during WWII.

**1978:** The law banning Navy women from ships is ruled unconstitutional. Congress amends the law by opening non combat ships to women. The Women's Army Corps is disestablished and its members integrated into the Regular Army.

**1979:** An Army Nurse Corps officer becomes the first African-American woman brigadier general in the history of the armed forces. The Marine Corps assigns women as embassy guards.

**1980:** The first women graduate from the service academies.

**1982:** The Air Force selects the first woman aviator for Test Pilot School.

**1983:** The first Navy woman completes Test Pilot School. Approximately 200 Army and Air Force women deploy to Grenada on Operation Urgent Fury

**1986:** Six Air Force women serve as pilots, copilots and boom operators on the KC-135 and KC-10 tankers that refuel FB-111s during the raid on Libya. A Navy woman becomes the first female jet test pilot in any service.

**1988:** NASA selects its first Navy woman as an astronaut.



Photos provided by Terri Cote, Executive Office

field, watching the cadets practice marching and drilling. I remember how much pride they had and how sharp they looked, and it inspired me to want to serve my country and be a part of that tradition.

**Other than job skills, what lessons did you**

**take away from your service?** I have learned that attention to detail is important in all aspects of life, that living by Air Force Core Values – integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do – on and off duty, will keep me on the right path.

**What is your favorite memory from your service?** There are so many to choose from, but a current one that tops the list is when I had the opportunity to play the part of an injured survivor and was hoisted 50 feet off the ground into a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter. Talk about a thrill a minute!

**What advice would you give your younger self, the one just entering the service?** Enjoy and relish every moment, even the tough ones, never take it for granted and cherish the memories because they stay with you forever.

*Terri Cote is the administrative assistant to the Portland District Deputy Commander. She began working for the Corps in 2008.*

**Petty Officer 2nd Class Carol Franson**  
U.S. Navy

*The opportunity to travel prompted Carol Franson to join the Navy in 1970, a decade during which the military underwent many cultural changes in relation to the nation's shifting social attitudes and expectations. She served as a personnelman near the end of the Vietnam War and was at the front gate of her base recording the Admiral's interactions with protesters; saw nuclear weapons removed from the base after the war; and made the local news in San Jose, Calif., in 1976 as one of the first women who were allowed to remain in the military when she became pregnant. Toward the end of her pregnancy she had to wear civilian clothes, because the Navy did not design maternity uniforms until 1978.*

**What is your favorite memory from your service?** So many memories! I remember flying in a P3 Orion prop plane in 1973 from Moffett Field, Calif., to Iwakuni, Japan, to visit my husband. The aircraft made an overnight stop on Midway Island and I remember the color of the water being so beautiful and thinking about the many soldiers killed on that beach during World War II. After my visit in Iwakuni, on our return flight we lost an engine and had to land in Adak, Alaska, a remote base



Photos provided by Carol Franson, Regulatory Branch, Eugene Field Office

in the Aleutian Islands where no women were stationed. It was a long week waiting for repairs.

I received the Secretary of the Navy Achievement Medal, the first medal established to recognize the contributions of junior officers and enlisted personnel who were not eligible to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal.

**What advice would you give your younger self, the one just entering the service?** I'm not sure what advice I would give someone entering the service today; women in the military have come a long way since I was in the Navy. I would say to always be open to new challenges and learning.

**What lessons did you take away from your service?** I gained a real sense that I am proud to be an American and that I was fortunate to have grown up in Oregon. I had the opportunity to meet people from all over the United States from all walks of life. I am so proud to have been part of something really important.

*Carol Franson is a Regulatory project manager in the Eugene Field Office. She has worked for the Portland District for 12 years.*



The Women's Memorial, dedicated Oct. 18, 1997, is the only national memorial honoring the more than two million women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since the Revolutionary War. It is operated and maintained by the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation and stands at the Ceremonial Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

The WIMSA Foundation's mission is to honor the service and sacrifices of women who have served, are serving, and who will serve the nation in the U.S. military. The Women's Memorial Education Center, located at the site of the memorial, houses photos, uniforms, videos and other memorabilia showcasing significant milestones in women's military history as well as the memories and professional histories of women who have served. Additionally, the foundation conducts an education program, operates a speakers bureau and hosts seminars, programs and activities at the memorial.

At the heart of the memorial is a computerized database called "The Register." Visitors to the memorial can type a name into a computer terminal and access photographs, histories and personal stories of women veterans who are registered. According to the Women's Memorial website about 250, 000 women, 13 percent of those eligible, have registered or have been registered by family or friends. Women veterans are encouraged to register and share their stories of service. Information on eligibility and how to register is available at [www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org).

Photo by Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

**1989:** 770 women deploy to Panama in Operation Just Cause. NASA selects its first Army woman as an astronaut.

**War in the Persian Gulf (1990-1991):** Some 40,000 American military women are deployed during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

**1991:** Congress repeals laws banning women from flying in combat.

**1993:** Congress repeals the law banning women from duty on combat ships. The first woman service secretary in the history of the armed forces is appointed.

**1994:** The USS Eisenhower is the first carrier to have permanent women crew members. The first woman, an Air Force major, copilots the space shuttle.

**1995:** The first female Marine pilot pins on naval flight wings.

**1996:** The first woman commands the Army's Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

**1997:** The first woman in history is appointed as a state adjutant general.

**1998:** For the first time, a woman fighter pilot delivers a payload of missiles and laser-guided bombs in combat. She is in the first wave of US strikes against Iraq in Operation Desert Fox.

**1999:** The first women graduate from the Virginia Military Institute and the Citadel.

**2000:** Navy women are among the victims and heroes when the USS Cole is attacked by a suicide bomber in Yemen. The first woman commands a Navy warship at sea. The vessel is assigned to the sensitive Persian Gulf. The Army National Guard promotes the first woman to major general.

**2001:** An Air National Guard security force woman becomes the first woman to complete the counter-sniper course, the only military sniper program open to women. The US Army Women's Museum opens at Ft. Lee, Virginia. Servicewomen are activated and deployed following the attacks on 9/11 in support of the war on terrorism.

**2003:** The first Native American servicewoman is killed in battle. She was one of three women who became prisoners of war during the first days of the war in Iraq.

**2005:** The first woman in history is awarded the Silver Star for combat action. She is one of 14 women in US history to receive the medal. The first woman in US Air Force history joins the prestigious USAF Air Demonstration Squadron "Thunderbirds." She was also the first woman on any US military high performance jet team.

**2007:** The last woman veteran of World War I dies.

**2008:** For the first time in US military history, a woman is promoted to the rank of four-star general. She is promoted by the US Army.



# Bonneville Dam keeps a clear channel for adult fish

By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

Rivers can be very deceptive. From above, they seem to move gently, smoothly flowing around stones or other obstacles. Look beneath the surface and you find a relentless force that shapes everything in its path.

While humans have used rivers as a transportation system for thousands of years, a river has its own purposes, using its force to move mountains of sediment miles downstream. Only when it encounters something that slows its progress does the river give up its cargo ... something like Bonneville Lock and Dam.

Built across the Columbia River, Bonneville Dam uses the river to create electricity and to guide adult fish into the ladders that allow them to pass the dam. While much of the water flows through the large hydropower turbines, biologists know fish use a river's current to find their way upstream, so a small portion of the river is used to create attraction flow for the fish ladders. Attraction flow at Powerhouse 2 is supplied by two small turbines that fill the auxiliary water supply system – a series of flow channels used to supply water to the fish entrances, the adult collection channel and to the lower end of the North Shore Fish ladder. These connected fish channels route fish up the North

Shore Fish ladder where they exit into the Bonneville pool upstream of the Washington shore fish viewing building.

The river slows before entering the small turbine units, causing it to drop some of the heavier sediment it carries. “The heavier sediment collects near the small turbine unit entrances upstream of the dam. Additionally, some of the sediment that passes through the small turbine units drops out into the AWS system and to a lesser extent in the North Shore fish ladder,” said Kevin Perletti, mechanical engineer at Bonneville Lock and Dam. “All that buildup of sediment in the AWS and the adult collection channel

makes the system hydraulically less efficient for fish passage. Since 1996, we've had to remove sediment several times from the AWS and the adult collection channel.”

When Powerhouse 2 began operating in 1982, Powerhouse 1, located near the Oregon shore, still had priority for power generation. That meant much of the river and its sediment was drawn through the turbines at Powerhouse 1. In the 2001, Powerhouse 2 became the priority power generator, which shifted the river's flow toward it. “Most of the sediment flushes through all the turbine units, but some of it falls out and builds up sediment piles upstream of Powerhouse 2 near the AWS entrance. This leads to sediment being pulled through the small turbine units and discharged into the relatively slow moving water of the AWS and adult collection channel,” Perletti said.

Sediment can alter the water's velocity by increasing the flow speed, or by changing the actual dimensions of the adult collection channel. “The AWS has a fixed channel width – it has a clean profile. If sediment builds up in corners or drifts appear it can alter the flow pattern,” Portland District hydraulic engineer Laurie Ebner said.

Employees noticed a large buildup of sediment in the AWS after the high river flows in 1996. They removed sediment from the AWS, the north ladder and the adult collection channel. “We found such large deposits we had to hoist a



Top: Mechanical engineer Kevin Perletti, left, discusses dredging operations at Bonneville Dam with Rick Mettler, Bonneville Dam's chief of Engineering and Contracts.

Above: Contractors move sediment from a barge in Bonneville Dam's forebay onto nearby Cascades Island. More than 6,000 cubic yards will be placed and after it dries employees will seed it with native grasses.

Opposite: Corps contractors dredge sediment near Bonneville Dam. If not removed by dredging, sediment can enter a flow channel where it can settle inside the dam structure, where its removal is much more difficult.

Photos by Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office



small bobcat tractor into the AWS to assist the crew in shoveling it all out,” Perletti said.

After the high flows experienced in 2011, biologists and engineers weren’t surprised that sonar scans showed significant shoaling near the small turbine unit entrances upstream of Powerhouse 2. “When Powerhouse 2 was built, no one realized we’d need to dredge upstream of the AWS,” Perletti said. “We now scan the area regularly to track how much sediment is being deposited. Dredging may not happen as frequently, but clearing out the AWS happens more often. We’re good at hoisting the bobcat into the channel with a crane,” he added.



Corps of Engineers photos



Bonneville Lock and Dam employees use a bobcat tractor to remove large amounts of sediment from the adult fish channels. Water slows before flowing through the dam’s turbines, causing some sediment to fall out and remain in the auxiliary water supply system. Excess sediment can decrease flow efficiency.

The Corps contracted with Marine Industrial Construction to dredge the area near the AWS entrance in January. “The contractor removed about 6,000 cubic yards of material from the forebay,” Perletti said. “It was more cost effective to place the dredged material on Cascades Island than for us to try finding an off-project disposal site or obtaining a permit for an in-water disposal,” he said.

Due to Bonneville’s distance from any disposal sites, either in water or on land, engineers and staff decided to use the material on Bonneville property, Perletti said. “We received all the environmental clearances to place the material on the Cascades Island disposal site. After the material dries we’ll seed

it with native grasses.” Many of the resident Canada geese seem to approve the decision, since they already have built nests and are incubating eggs adjacent to the new layer of ground.

Dredging near the small turbine units will occur again – especially after the Columbia River experiences higher than normal flows. “Higher flows aren’t common, which is good for us,” Perletti said. “But we know they happen occasionally. We believe our cleanup in January will keep the sediment in the forebay under control for several years.”

Cleaning the AWS has now become nearly routine, even though when they constructed it, engineers

didn’t realize what Powerhouse 2’s priority status would mean to the adult collection channel. “There will always be sediment transported by the river, which means we’ll need to keep monitoring the AWS and the forebay to ensure it doesn’t build up so much that it affects our fish passage system and/or operation of the small turbine units,” Perletti said.

As long as employees like Perletti and Ebner work to keep the AWS free of drifts and shoals, the fish won’t even notice its lack as they travel upstream. The river won’t notice either; it will continue transporting its own cargo, always leaving a bit behind as it flows through Bonneville Lock and Dam. 

## Talking points tool accessible to employees and others

By Amy Echols, Public Affairs Office

Now there’s a tool to tell Corps stories, educate our audiences and prepare us for speaking engagements, school presentations and other Corps activities in our communities.

Corps headquarters develops a national-level Monthly Talking Points Communications Toolbox for use by all employees. In bullet-point format, Monthly Talking Points cover a broad range of topics, from the

USACE must engage all audiences, for it is only through education and demonstrated performance that the command can develop trust and credibility.

Army drawdown to climate change, from continuing resolutions to infrastructure operations. The tool also provides a point of contact for each topic and a few summary charts to support communication. You also can use this resource to respond to questions from

| USACE INVENTORY             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Installations Supported     | 158 Army, 90 Air Force  |
| Dams (Own and Operate)      | 702 at 556 projects   |
| USACE Levee Safety Program  | 14,501 miles in 2,486 systems   |
| Inland Navigation Channels  | 12,000 miles  |
| Coastal Navigation Channels | 13,000 miles  |
| Harbors                     | 926   |
| Hydroelectric Facilities    | 75 producing approximately 25% of Nation’s hydropower                           |
| M&I Water Supply Reservoirs | 134 in 25 states  |
| Recreation Sites            | 4,248 at 422 lakes and rivers projects with nearly 370 million visits each year |
| Public Lands and Waters     | 12 million acres under USACE Stewardship  |

Charts, maps and bullet-point messages included here are examples from the Monthly Talking Points for Corps employees to use for all audiences.

neighbors, stakeholders, customers, partners and audiences who are critical to the Corps’ – and Portland District’s – success.

### Talking Point

On Contingency Operations: When disasters occur, USACE teams and other resources are mobilized from across the country to assist our local districts and offices to deliver our response missions.

In addition, Portland District’s Public Affairs Office (in collaboration with project managers and their teams) develops talking points specific to District issues and to support news media inquiries. This local support, combined with Monthly Talking Points, can provide the context for many of the stories we tell.

Find Monthly Talking Points under References on the HQ Intranet page: <https://intranet.usace.army.mil/hq/Pages/CommToolbox.aspx>. While there, look around the toolbox for issue-specific StrongPoint documents and other communication resources. For those who can’t access the intranet, contact the Portland District Public Affairs Office at (503) 808-4510.

### A REMINDER

Portland District policy requires advance Public Affairs’ review and approval of all presentations and material developed for external audiences, even if you use Monthly Talking Points. Give us a call as you develop your material and we will help support your storytelling journey.

### Talking Point

On Climate Change: Climate is changing and has been observed to affect many parts of Corps of Engineers planning and operations, particularly in its water resource mission areas. These mission areas include flood risk management, coastal and inland navigation, recreation, hydropower generation, emergency preparedness and response, water supply, regulatory permitting, and ecosystem restoration.



# GETTING READY TO TRAVEL?

PLAN FOR THE EXPECTED AND UNEXPECTED.



By Erica Jensen, Public Affairs Office

**M**any Portland District employees travel both professionally and/or personally, either around the nation or the world – and, according to Doug Dailey, chief of Security and Law Enforcement, they are often surprised to learn they are required to report their official AND personal foreign travel plans to the security office as well as complete required training to prepare for what could happen while they're gone.

With that in mind, here are some travel planning and crime safety tips to help ensure both you and your home remain safe while you're away.



Photo from John Nicholson, Real Estate Office

## Are you planning to travel overseas?

BEFORE YOU STEP FOOT ON FOREIGN SOIL DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW THESE PLANNING ESSENTIALS

**1** Before you buy your plane ticket  
Visit the Portland District's Security and Law Enforcement web page for Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheet for the area you plan to visit. Visit the site again 10 days before you leave for your trip just to be sure nothing has changed.

[https://intranet.usace.army.mil/nwd/nwp/sl/Pages/overseas\\_travel.aspx](https://intranet.usace.army.mil/nwd/nwp/sl/Pages/overseas_travel.aspx)

**2** Check the expiration date of your passport  
According to the State Department, some countries require that your passport be valid at least six months beyond the dates of your trip. They suggest you renew your passport approximately nine months before it expires.

**3** Sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program  
While you're on the State Department website sign up for the online Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. This will help them contact you if you have an emergency in the U.S. or if there is a crisis while you are traveling.

**4** Let your bank know you'll be out of the country  
Before you purchase in-country transportation, accommodations or tours let your bank know you'll be out of the country. Your debit card and other credit cards are typically blocked against international transactions. Just call your bank or the number on the back of your card to get started. You don't want to arrive somewhere and not have your credit cards work!

**5** Don't spend your money until you've read some reviews  
Make transportation, accommodation and tour reservations through reputable travel sources. Read travel reviews online to see what others are saying about a service or hotel. Many online tools allow you to sort travel by preference (solo, family, couples, business) allowing you to read reviews from likeminded travelers. If at all in doubt, check with the Better Business Bureau (if they operate in the United States).



**6** Complete Foreign Travel Training to include Level 1 Force Protection/Anti-Terrorist Training  
The Foreign Travel Training Document is located at: [https://intranet.usace.army.mil/nwd/nwp/sl/Pages/overseas\\_travel.aspx](https://intranet.usace.army.mil/nwd/nwp/sl/Pages/overseas_travel.aspx)  
AT Level 1 Training is available at: <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at/>

**7** Be sure to let someone know about your travel plans  
You might always do this, but as a reminder, leave a detailed itinerary and copies of your passport data page and visas with your emergency contact and other trustworthy persons. Again, you also are required to let the Security and Law Enforcement Office know about your plans by filling out a Foreign Travel Planning document.

## Vacation Safety and Crime Prevention Tips

Criminals love vacations as much as everyone else, but mainly it's an opportune time for crime. Don't let the excitement of travel lull you into giving burglars, muggers, or pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Follow these simple prevention tips to enjoy your vacation safely.

Notify only trusted family and friends about your travel plans. Do not announce your vacation plans online (via Facebook or any other social media). If you post comments or photos about your trip be sure to limit the access of those messages to only those whom you trust.

### PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE

- If available, park inside a garage and make sure the garage is closed.
- Take all valuables out of the vehicle.
- Lock all doors and secure all windows.
- Try to park in well-lighted spaces.

### PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings and the people around you (especially when you are out shopping).
- Be cautious of your purse and/or wallet. Carry them close to your body.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Avoid walking alone. Try to stay in well lighted areas.

### PROTECT YOUR HOME

- Lock all doors and windows when you leave your house or hotel room, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Keep lights and a radio or TV on.
- Don't leave valuables/gifts out in the open or where they can be seen from the outside.
- If you will be leaving town, ask a neighbor to watch your home and gather the mail and newspapers.
- Conduct a home inventory. Identify and make a record of your property. Video and pictures are great tools to help you catalog your valuables.

Source: Portland District Security and Law Enforcement Office

**PASSPORTS OR VISAS FOR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT TRAVEL**  
Employees traveling on government business must use an official passport for their trip.

Since an official passport takes six to eight weeks to process be sure to request your official several months in advance of travel. An expedited passport can be obtained but requires Commander-level approval to initiate the process.

For further details or to request an official passport, contact the Portland District Logistics Office.

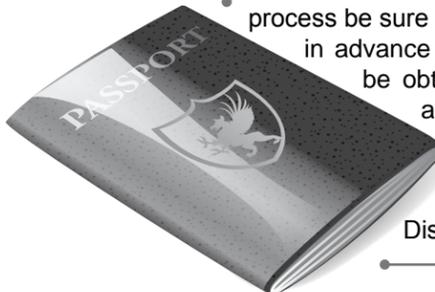



Photo from Kevin Brice, Programs and Project Management

Kevin Brice, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management along with his wife, Peggy, near the summit of Mont Blanc in the French Alps.



## Travel Tips

► Pack a backpack with two days of clean clothes and toiletries to take with you on the plane. There's nothing worse than getting stuck at a connecting airport in a snow storm for four days wearing flip flops, shorts and a t-shirt! [John Nicholson]



Rach Gia, Vietnam

Photo by Erica Jensen, Public Affairs Office

► Always wear sensible shoes. You could end up wearing those shoes for your whole trip. In an emergency, you need to be able to move. [Malinda Lefave]

► Before booking OCONUS vacations, check with the State Department for any travel restrictions that might prevent you from going to that location. Register with the STEP program at <https://step.state.gov/step/>. Once you found the location/resort, shop it around at the different web travel sites. Just make sure you are comparing apples to apples (same resort, same room category, same amenities packages, same arrival/departure dates). You would be surprised at the cost difference you find from one travel site to the next. Also, if you can adjust your arrival and departure dates a lot of times you can find cheaper flights and possibly even get the room at a bigger discount too. [John Nicholson]



John Nicholson and friend, Huatulco, Mexico

Photo from John Nicholson, Real Estate Office



Alhambra, Granada, Spain

Photo by Erica Jensen, Public Affairs Office

► If you travel alone but miss social interactions, stay at a local guesthouse or hostel. You almost always meet other travelers at breakfast where you will often get ideas on what is best to do or may even end up on a tour or traveling somewhere together. [Erica Jensen]

► Have a way to contact your medical provider if you have a medical situation in a foreign country so you don't end up paying for an unnecessary procedure on your credit card. [Jeff Abel]



Malinda Lefave and friend

Photo from Malinda Lefave, Real Estate Office

► Plan ahead, pack ahead, and get everywhere you can early. Nothing is more stressful than having to rush everywhere at the last minute. [Doug Dailey]



Goreme, Turkey

Photo from Erica Jensen, Public Affairs Office

► Budget for the unexpected (for every dollar planned, have two dollars in reserve for the unexpected). [Jeff Abel]



Corsica, France

Photo by Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

► You can often purchase cheaper airfare by traveling mid-week to mid-week. You may also get a cheaper deal to a destination by purchasing airfare legs separately. [John Nicholson]

## Travel Discounts

Many of the Army's MWR travel and vacation opportunities are also open to Department of Defense civilians. Check out the links below to find your next vacation destination.

### LEISURE TRAVEL

#### U.S. Army MWR:

#### Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs

<http://www.armymwr.com/travel/offdutytravel/default.aspx>

#### Armed Forces Vacation Club

<http://www.afvclub.com/>

#### DoDLodging (Air Force and Navy lodging)

<http://www.dodlodging.net/>

#### Discounted resorts and cruises

<http://www.vacationstogo.com/>

#### Joint Base Lewis-McChord MWR

<http://www.jblmmwr.com/>

#### GREAT RESORTS AWAITING YOU!

#### Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii

<http://bellowsafs.com/default.asp>

#### Dragonhill Lodge (Korea)

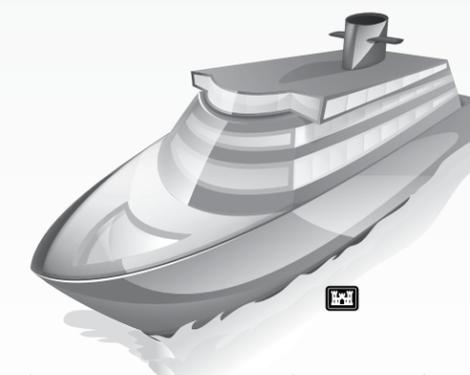
<http://www.dragonhilllodge.com/main.html>

#### Seward Alaska Resort

<http://www.sewardresort.com/>

#### Shades of Green (Walt Disney World, Florida)

<http://www.shadesofgreen.org/home.html>





# Corps welcomes future engineers to Bonneville Dam to celebrate Engineer Day

By Erica Jensen, Public Affairs Office

As part of National Engineers Week, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers welcomed more than 100 high school students from a dozen Portland-area high schools to Bonneville Lock and Dam Feb 21.

The Society of American Military Engineers partnered with the Portland District by sponsoring a mini-job fair and lunch for students. Local engineering firms such as Mead and Hunt, Inc. and Cooper Zietz Engineers hosted booths providing information to students about their organizations and career opportunities.

Portland District Commander Col. John Eisenhower kicked off the day's activities by addressing the current global need for science, technology,

engineering and mathematics professionals. "With a shortage of applicants in these areas, you are in a unique position to pursue a career where you will be highly valued," he told the high school juniors and seniors. He encouraged them to ask lots of questions and gather ideas that will help them make their future college and career decisions.

Students learned about structural engineering during a bridge building exercise, about generating hydropower as they toured one of Bonneville Dam's powerhouses and then created their own power sources from magnets and pieces of copper wire. They also learned about environmental engineering, including engineering actions undertaken by the Corps to help fish safely pass through dams on the Columbia and Willamette river systems.

Rich Weber, a construction teacher from Benson High School, said it was a first for many of his students who had never been to the dam before. "It was good [for] them get outside of Portland and see the Columbia Gorge and the dam," he said. "[They also] learned about some of the professional opportunities available to them they might not have thought about before."

Students left the event around 4 p.m. armed with resources for their future -- and tired from a day filled with constant activity and tours.

"My students had an incredible field trip and memorable day -- they were so exhausted from learning that they slept the entire drive back to Portland," said MayIna Wolfer, a math teacher from Gresham High School. 



Above: High school students from a dozen Portland-area schools visit Bonneville Lock and Dam Feb. 21 to celebrate Engineer Day. Students learn about structural engineering during a bridge building exercise. Below: Students create their own power sources from magnets and pieces of copper wire. Opposite page: Local engineering firms host a mini job fair to encourage students to choose a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math profession.

All photos by Billie Johnson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers





## Sharing the Corps' message

You are the face of the Corps. Share these messages with your family, friends and community.

### Corps begins scoping process for Mount St. Helens supplemental EIS

The Corps of Engineers is developing a long-term sediment management plan to reduce the amount of sediment depositing in the lower Cowlitz River. The plan's purpose is to maintain flood risk protection at specified levels for the cities of Castle Rock, Lexington, Kelso and Longview, Wash.

Scoping is the initial stage of the environmental impact statement process used to identify issues, alternatives, and impacts to be addressed in the National Environmental Policy Act analysis. The Corps is proposing four alternative plans for managing long-term sediment management and we are asking the public for input on them:

1. One-time raise of Sediment Retention System and spillway by between 40 and 50 feet.
2. Annual dredging of the lower 20 miles of Cowlitz River.
3. Adaptive approach that would include combination of additional raises of SRS Spillway (up to 23 feet), construction of small scale structures upstream of SRS (similar to grade-building pilot project effort), and infrequent dredging in the lower Cowlitz River, if large events occur.
4. No action. This alternative is required under the NEPA process.

We are asking the public to consider the following questions as they write their comments about our four alternatives:

- A) *Is the geographic area to be analyzed in the SEIS sufficient to capture potential effects from the proposed alternatives?*
- B) *Have all potentially affected resources and the extent of analysis for those resources been identified?*
- C) *Do you know of resources that may be adversely impacted by the proposed alternatives?*
- D) *What specific measures do you recommend the Corps consider to avoid, minimize and mitigate effects of our proposals?*

