

CORPS' PONDENT

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US Army Corps
of Engineers
Portland District



Members of the rope rescue team at Bonneville Lock and Dam prepare to transport a patient during a training exercise.

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"If you don't know where you're going, you might not get there."

Yogi Berra

I apologize up front to our Boston fans for using a Yankees legend's quote, but Yogi Berra's message is an enduring one. Setting goals, developing a plan to attain them and periodically checking your progress against that plan are all milestones in any career.

Do you have a career plan? Have you thought about what you'd like to be doing in 10 or 15 years? The Army is committed to the career development of its Soldiers and Civilians, so I encourage you to start planning now how to get where you want to go. That's how you'll find the right road for you and attain your goals.

What does it take to find the right road? Our world is continually changing. By proactively developing your leadership and other skills and refining your technical competencies, you will increase your chances for transition into new career prospects.

Both formal and informal professional development opportunities are available to Portland District employees.

Formal training includes the Corps' Basic Leadership Toolkit course and the U.S. Army's leadership courses for civilians through its Continuing Education System. Some eligibility criteria apply, so contact your training person if you want to take these courses.

The Portland District's Leadership Development Program is a high caliber and highly competitive program with academic and practical emphasis in leadership development, leading public organizations and national policy

process. LDP also offers opportunities for networking, public speaking and formalized mentoring.

Participation in LDP is limited to a dozen or so participants every year. I wish that we could have an unlimited number of attendees; however, that would dilute the effectiveness of the program, resulting in failure to meet our goals for it. My advice to those who haven't been accepted into the program: be persistent and continue to develop your leadership and professional skills outside of LDP.

Other beneficial development opportunities, considered more informal, include informational interviews with senior leaders, cross-training with colleagues, participating on a project development team or detailing to work in another internal or external organization. If you'd like to pursue such a course, discuss these opportunities with your supervisor to determine how/when you can participate while balancing mission accomplishment.

I also urge you to initiate job shadowing and mentoring opportunities with the people you consider highly effective or who hold positions that you might want to occupy in the future.

Be proactive. Learn more about our District, regional and headquarters organizations. Participate in professional organizations such as the Army Engineer Association, Society of American Military Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, etc. Familiarize yourself with our priorities and issues at all levels. Read the Corps' *Engineer Update*, *Corps Environment*



Col. John Eisenhauer, P.E.

and the District *Corps'pondent*. Read our weekly situation report as well as online news clippings and releases to keep informed about the District's events and issues. Did you know Public Affairs sends out daily news clips? Call or e-mail them to sign up.

Want still more information? Read books and periodicals about leadership and specialty areas – your area of expertise as well as others. Reading lists are available on the Portland District's LDP and Civilian Education System Websites – and many of the books are available through the District Library.

Your development as a leader and a professional is in direct alignment with my intent to strengthen our focus on people and processes to accomplish our mission, further enhance our reputation and prepare for the future.

By enhancing your leadership and professional capabilities, you are defining yourself as a valuable District asset – and not just as a benefit for the Corps but also for the U.S. Army and the Nation.

Better yet, professional development will help you discover all those roads stretching out before you – only now you'll be able to see which road is the right road for you. 📧

COL Ike



Portland District People

Justin Stegall has worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for five years. He started as an AmeriCorps volunteer at Lookout Point Reservoir, Willamette Valley Project, then was hired by the Corps to work at Fern Ridge Reservoir. Today he works as a natural resource specialist at the Rogue River Basin Project.



Describe your job:

My position is diverse. Every day I face new challenges and interesting opportunities. I protect natural resources, promote water- and land-based safety, facilitate environmental education, maintain recreation areas, design and construct interpretive materials, support powerhouse operations and nurture partnerships.

What do you find most rewarding about your job?

By serving in the Corps I am part of making a positive difference in the lives of so many people. I love the looks on kids' faces when I walk into a busy water recreation area and ask, "Who wants to answer a water safety question and win a prize?" Education is key to prevention and if I can save lives by doing my job then I have the best job in the world.

How does your job fit into our District mission?

I'm part of a diverse and talented team that manages natural resources, recreation and environmental compliance – all while representing the Portland District as the face of the Corps to the nation.

What inspires you or motivates you as you do your job?

My degree is in biology from the University of Oregon. The outdoors as a working system has always fascinated me and I feel very fortunate to have a job that allows me to protect and manage this delicate balance. At the end of the day I feel confident I have made good decisions that will benefit the public lands we manage.

What do you like most about working for the Portland District?

The diversity of people, our proactive approach to the environment and to serving the public ... and, it's the region where I grew up and now want to raise my family.

Who or what inspires you?

My daughter just turned five and I am amazed and thankful for each day I have to spend with her. She has a wonder and excitement for life that inspires me to live mine to the fullest.

A meal that influenced your life

Eating traditional open-smoked salmon strips while listening to a Story Knife by a Yup'ik elder, in a village on the Kuskokwim River delta near Bethel, Alaska. In story knifing, the storyteller uses a knife to sketch pictures into the silt of the the river bank, in this case, while telling her story.

What is the craziest thing you've ever done?

Selling all our possessions and moving to St. Croix, USVI, where I worked as a dive master at a local dive shop. The only stipulation from my wife was, "We have to able to take our cat, Walter." So we moved 4,000 miles with three suit cases – and a cat. 🐱





2012 Chief of Engineers Natural Resource Management Award winners

It is a distinct honor and privilege to announce the following Portland District employees as the Chief of Engineers Natural Resource Management Award winners for 2012.

Please join me in congratulating our honored professionals for their success and contributions to making the Corps a premier federal recreational and natural resources management agency.

*Col. John W. Eisenhower, P.E.
Portland District Commander*

NATIONAL RECREATION EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to natural resources specialist Christie Johnson, the 2012 Corps of Engineers National Recreation Employee of the Year award winner.

Johnson is an interpretive and outreach coordinator at Willamette Valley Project and serves as lead spokesperson to the public. As a professional interpreter, she keeps visitors safe and informed with water safety education and shares the Corps mission through visitor and community programs. She helps ensure the safety of her colleagues and other District personnel through visitor assistance trainings. Additionally, Johnson proactively fosters partnerships with other federal, state and local agencies to further promote Corps missions.

Johnson's professionalism, high standards and friendly character make her highly respected and appreciated by her co-workers, Corps partners and visitors to Willamette Valley Project. It is with great pleasure that we congratulate her on a well-deserved honor.



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Garrett Wickham, environmental compliance specialist at Bonneville Lock and Dam, was honored as the Corps of Engineers National Environmental Compliance Employee of the Year award winner for 2012.

Wickham ensures that all work done on the project, either by project personnel or contractor, is completed in an environmentally-friendly manner and in compliance with federal regulations. He works closely with project staff to ensure minimal environmental impacts to both land and water.

Wickham is an active member of both the District and Division ECC teams and has been a driving force in the development of various oil handling and accounting policies. He is an excellent communicator of the environmental processes used at Bonneville Dam – which in turn, benefits other projects.

He works closely with state and federal agencies during both emergency cleanups and formal and informal inspections of the Bonneville Lock and Dam facility.

Wickham's professional demeanor, knowledge and ability to work well with all organizational levels has earned him respect and admiration from his fellow Corps employees as well as state and federal environmental regulators. He is truly a high-level performer and it is with great pleasure that we congratulate him for this accomplishment. 🏆



Corps of Engineers photos



Yaquina to the rescue

By Michelle Helms, Public Affairs Office

Crew members aboard the dredge *Yaquina* rescued a kayaker on May 22 just off the coast of California.

Yaquina Captain Steve Ackerman said the ship was dredging the outbound channel of Morro Bay when a group of kayakers passed on their way to the open waters of the Pacific Ocean.

As the ship was getting ready to head out to the ocean disposal site, crew members Chris Ochs and Joey Minnick, who were standing watch, noticed a fishing boat that was stopped and maneuvering near the jetties. The vessel's crew was trying to rescue a kayaker who was in the water after waves flipped his boat.

"The harbor patrol was contacted, but they were on another call and too far away to assist," said Ackerman.

Ackerman launched the *Yaquina's* rescue boat and within six minutes of the capsizing, crew members Richard Morris and Sonny Kimokeo were on their way.

"There were moderate swells, maybe four to five feet," said Ackerman. "The wind was picking up a bit and the

current was pulling him further out into the ocean."

The rescue boat pulled up next to the kayaker, and Morris and Kimokeo pulled him aboard, grabbed his kayak and headed back inside the harbor. Roughly 12 minutes passed from the time the kayaker capsized to the time the rescue boat was back in protected waters.

The kayaker, checked over by harbor patrol personnel, declined any medical attention and paddled off to enjoy the afternoon with his friends.

Ackerman says the dredge crews are ready for these kinds of situations.

"Our work takes us into areas where it would be easy for someone to fall overboard. We practice man overboard drills and train regularly to rescue people from the water."

That training is put to use from time to time, though hopefully not with members of the *Yaquina's* crew. Ackerman says the ship's crew has assisted in rescues in harbors up and down the west coast.

Last year the dredge was working between the jetties at Newport, Ore.,



Joey Minnick was standing watch May 22, 2012, when he and Chris Ochs realized a kayaker was in distress after being flipped out of his boat by waves.



Richard Morris (left) and Sonny Kimokeo pulled the capsized kayaker aboard the Corps rescue boat and transported him safely to the harbor at Morro Bay, Calif.

when a fishing boat heading towards shore passed on the wrong side of the jetty. Ochs and Minnick were on watch that day, too, and Minnick called the boat many times and used the *Yaquina's* powerful spotlights to alert it to the danger. Finally, they saw the boat turn and head back to safer waters. A short time later *Yaquina* received an excited and flustered call, saying the fisherman must have fallen asleep and thanks for the radio call.

Ackerman said the recent incident in Morro Bay was a good exercise for the crew.

Their training paid off. In an environment where a relaxing day on the water can suddenly turn into an emergency, the crew of the *Yaquina* ensured a happy ending. 



Corps of Engineers photos



Corps begins NEPA process for double-crested cormorant nesting area

By Diane Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has filed a Notice of Intent, one of the initial documents that begin the NEPA process. The National Environmental Policy Act was enacted in 1969, one of the first laws written to establish a broad national framework for protecting our environment. An Environmental Impact Statement is being developed and is expected to take about two years to complete.

In 2012, the Corps and its contractor, Oregon State University, continued a pilot study designed to investigate techniques for reducing losses of juvenile salmonids due to double-crested cormorant predation in the Columbia River estuary. The study included two techniques designed to discourage nesting on East Sand Island. This information will be utilized in developing the cormorant management plan.

The first technique, human disturbance, was used on a discrete portion of the breeding colony area. The second technique was the placement of a privacy fence to separate 15 percent of the nesting area, decreasing the total area available to nesting birds.

During the 2012 continuation study, the separation area was increased from 15 percent to 64 percent. “The purpose of increasing the area off-limits to nesting was to evaluate alternatives for displacing cormorants,” project manager Sondra Ruckwardt said. This information will be used while developing the cormorant management plan.

Double-crested cormorants have historically nested along much of the northern United States, which offered easy access to their primary food: young fish. Cormorants were first documented nesting on East Sand

Island in the Columbia River estuary in 1989. East Sand Island was created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decades ago when dredged materials were placed on an existing island. Since 1989, cormorant numbers have increased from less than 100 breeding pairs to about 13,000 today, the largest recorded cormorant colony in the western population area, and possibly in all of North America.

As cormorant numbers increased, Columbia Basin fisheries managers began raising concerns about the potential impact of predation on survival of juvenile salmonids from the large number of double-crested cormorants nesting in the Columbia River estuary. Double-crested cormorants on East Sand Island ate an estimated average of 22.6 million juvenile salmonids during 2010 and 2011, which included ESA-listed salmonids. 



To minimize human presence, researchers use covered tunnels to reach observation towers on East Sand Island. Birds nest against and atop the tunnels, proving their effectiveness.

Corps of Engineers photo



Portland District hosts first-ever Administrative Summit

By Judi Hutchings, Engineering and Construction Division

What do you get when you bring 100 administrative professionals together? The Portland District's first ever Administrative Summit.

With nearly half of the Portland District's administrative staff dispersed throughout Oregon and southwest Washington, it's challenging to deliver the District's big picture perspective or other important professional development opportunities to everyone at once.

Because of this, an Admin Summit planning team was formed whose mission was to bring the District and Northwestern Division admin staff together – and after a year of planning, the summit became a reality last May.

Since both the professional and personal development of the administrative staff is essential and a

priority for senior leadership, the two-day summit centered on these themes.

Portland District Commander Col. John W. Eisenhower emphasized his support during his opening remarks the first day. "It's important that we provide our admin staff with the tools necessary to accomplish their work successfully and support their careers and personal development."

Eisenhower likened administrative personnel to engines that keep the Corps' mission on track each day. "Like any fine-tuned engine, various components have to work in sync," Eisenhower said. "Similarly, the diverse components of our administrative staff have to understand what their colleagues do as well as how and why they work the way they do." Having this understanding helps create an appreciation of the efforts of the team as a whole, he said.

Day One focused on professional and personal development initiatives and Day Two included a field visit for more perspective on what the District

does and how each member of the administrative staff contributes.

Featured speakers on the first day included Dr. James Hearn, director of Regional Business, NWD Regional Business Directorate, and Sue Engelhardt, director of the Corps' Human Resources Office in Washington, D.C.

Hearn presented information about career progression – speaking about the importance of writing a good resume, how to interview and how to diversify one's career path to gain more meaningful experiences. His enthusiastic participation was a welcome addition and one of the highlights of the day.

Engelhardt presented two activities. First, she led attendees through The GREGORC Style Delineator with each completing a self-assessment exercise to learn their individual work style profile: Doers, Thinkers, Feelers or Seers.



Administrative Summit attendees tour Bonneville Lock and Dam.

Corps of Engineers photos





Brandi Hyland, Admin. Support Assistant, Vancouver Resident Office, "I learned so much about my own personality and others, how to succeed in a team environment and how to organize my work to feel a sense of accomplishment every day."

"As Sue described each profile, everyone seemed to be on the edge of their seats," said Terry Kelly, executive assistant and Admin Summit planning team lead. "But it was even more fun to hear their cheers, comments and affirmation of one another as they gathered in their work style groups."

During her second activity, Englehardt talked about generational differences – the idea that each person in the workplace has a different thought process and work style attributed to their generational experience and culture.

In addition to Hearn and Englehardt's presentations, a panel discussion was held with current and former Portland District careerists, who spoke about their personal experiences as they built their careers.

Other professional development topics included learning how to write a resume, how to apply for jobs and how to interview – with mock interviews conducted to highlight specific techniques. Attendees also discussed the importance of dressing for success, the basics of etiquette and learned why it's important to manage their

reputation and be recognized for their commitment to excellence.

One big takeaway was that rewarding careers in the admin field are possible, with a variety of paths available.

Some of Portland District's senior managers attended the summit, including Lance Helwig, chief of the Engineering and Construction Division. "My hope is that this is only the first of several summits," he said. "Our administrative staff is vital and are key players to almost every District process and procedure – providing them the opportunity to learn from other administrative experts and leaders as well as share common practices and knowledge is just good business."

Diane Lau, Northwestern Division Human Resources Director, also attended. "What a wonderful job. It was on target with what admin professionals want to know!"

Day Two focused on the "big picture" of what Portland District does and how each member of admin support team contributes to the overall effort and success of the District – and what better way to learn this than through a field trip to Bonneville Lock and Dam?

At the dam, the group donned hard hats for a VIP tour of the fish ladder, the navigation lock and Powerhouse Two, experiencing the reality of the actions and terms they often hear during their workday.

Hydroelectric power operations manager, Dennis Schwartz, who served as the tour guide for the day, explained the workings of Bonneville Dam.

"Many of our administrative professionals don't have an

opportunity to visit a project, but a field trip like this helps them fit the many pieces together," he said. "It brings a deeper understanding of what we do here at a large and complex hydro plant and an awareness and appreciation of the work and people they support."

Dean Criscola, chief of Resource Management said, "This event was deliberately tailored to meet the needs of support staff and is something we should continue each year and, in addition to providing a venue for training and information sharing, it has brought the entire admin staff together in a sense of community and unity."

Training, information sharing, networking, personal and professional development, community and unity. That is what you get when you bring 100 administrative professionals together to one venue. 

Dennis Schwartz, hydroelectric power operations manager, served as tour guide of Bonneville Lock and Dam on day two of the Admin Summit.





Leadership Development Program

Story by Erica Jensen, Public Affairs Office

Photos by Billie Johnson, ACE-IT Visual Information

Fifteen employees selected for this year's District Leadership Development Program will spend the next year together, sharpening their presentation skills and learning about and observing leadership principles in action. They will plan and implement a capstone project meant to prove their personnel management, team building and project development skills.

The class will be facilitated by Laura Hicks, chief of the Planning and Project Management Branch, and Brent Mahan, director of the Hydroelectric Design Center – both of whom bring a tremendous amount of individual, organizational and national leadership experience to the three academic components of the program.

“Developing leaders that can think strategically and turn thinking into the right actions is top priority for me,” said Mahan. “Laura and I are working with an outstanding LDP team that I know will influence Portland District and beyond for a better future.”

LDP is an intensive year-long program that requires time, dedication and commitment. Coursework is at the graduate level and participants can either earn college credits toward a master's degree or the slightly less rigorous certificate of completion.

To learn more about what makes Portland District's LDP one of the best in the Corps, visit <https://w3.nwp.usace.army.mil/de/leadership/home.asp>.



Portland District welcomes 15 members to its 2012/2013 Leadership Development Program. Not shown: Ross Foster, Brent Mahan (facilitator) and Joshua Patton.



Program welcomes new class

LDP Facilitators

Laura Hicks

Chief, Planning and Project Management Branch

Planning, Programs and Project Management Division

Corps Career: 30-plus years



Former 52nd Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General Carl A. Strock has influenced me the most. He was caring and genuine and when I met with him he always made me feel the subject I was briefing was important to him. He made me feel what I worked on was important and my opinion was important. During challenging times, he would tell me, "It is not what happened to you, it is how you choose to react to it." His advice will always be a part of my life.

Brent Mahan

Director

Hydroelectric Design Center

Corps Career: 30 years



A leader I try to emulate is former Chief of Engineers LTG Robert Flowers. One lasting example of his empowered leadership style was the "Just Do It Card" that he issued to all 35,000 Corps employees. The card empowered all team members to take appropriate action without requesting approval if they could answer "yes" to the following questions: Is it legal and ethical? Is it good for my customer? Am I willing to be held accountable for it? Flower's leadership fostered a common vision making our work meaningful and exciting.



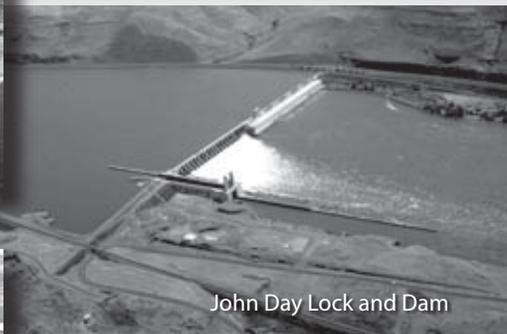
Bonneville Lock and Dam



Cougar Lake and Dam



Rogue River Jetty



John Day Lock and Dam



McGregor Park Visitor Center



Fern Ridge Lake and Dam



Mount St. Helens Sediment Retention Structure

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Great leaders of yesterday

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LDP Class

Time Magazine publishes a list every year naming those who have influenced our world the most ... When asked to name examples of leadership who have inspired them, here's who this year's Leadership Development Program cohort said they'd most like to emulate.



Jesse Alsup
Mechanical
Planner

**John Day Lock
and Dam**

**Corps Career: 13
years**

If I had to choose a public figure to emulate it would probably be seven times Tour De France winner and humanitarian Lance Armstrong. First off, I admire the tough battle he faced recovering from cancer to win the Tour De France. The tour takes a great team and impeccable determination to survive and win! He was a great team cycling leader and a guy that other riders wanted to follow and were willing to sacrifice themselves for. Off the bike, Lance has taken his determination to be a strong individual to inspire and help others in the cancer fight with his Livestrong Foundation.

**Jeremy
Britton**

**Geotechnical
Team Lead**

**Engineering and
Construction
Division**

**Corps Career: 5
years**

My high school soccer coach was an early influence. He had credibility as he was a great player in his day. He had great planning skills with well-organized practices and game plans and was even-tempered, patient and consistent. He didn't get rattled and



you knew what he expected, and he was compassionate – caring about his players as people.

**David R.
Brown**

**Computer
Engineer**

**Hydroelectric
Design Center**

**Corps Career: 3.5
years**

Herbert Hoover, the 31st President of the United States, was a humanitarian and trained professional engineer that brought his experience in solving engineering problems into effective public service. He stood with integrity and determination, serving through one of the great tumultuous times in world history. The result brought some of the greatest and boldest humanitarian relief efforts of our time – including the provision of food to millions of starving people in Russia following the First World War. Hoover put human welfare before politics, stating that, "Twenty million people are starving. Whatever their politics, they shall be fed!" This caring leadership inspires me to become an effective leader driven by concern for others and the well being of the organization as a whole.

**Jeremy
Bynum**

**Electrical
Engineer**

**Hydroelectric
Design Center**

**Corps Career: 6
years**



I do not look at one specific person as an example of leadership; I look at all of the leaders I have had in my life. Specifically, the leaders I had while I was in the United States Air Force who demonstrated to me, "Service before self."

Matt Cutts

**Program and
Project Manager**

**Planning,
Programs
and Project
Management
Division**

**Corps Career: 2
years**

Jesus Christ is the best example of a servant leader that I know of. Thinking of his sacrifice inspires me to follow Peter's words: Serve as their leaders ... not because you have to. Instead, do it because you want to. Don't do it because you want to get more and more money. Do it because you really want to serve.



**Amanda
Dethman**

**Realty Specialist
Team Leader**

**Real Estate
Division**

**Corps Career: 10
Years**

Many leaders strongly influenced my life, including my parents, teachers, pastors, mentors and supervisors. A common thread among each is the character and qualities they possess. The traits of great leadership include honesty and integrity and the ability to inspire others with a vision and purpose. Qualities I





seek to emulate include love, kindness, discipline, a strong work ethic – and a keen insight to see the potential in people and draw it out for a greater purpose. Secure in their authority, great leaders seem undaunted by obstacles and remain positive and focused. They provide protective oversight while allowing freedom to explore, learn and grow in a nurturing environment. They also challenge their understudies and offer guidance at key moments.

Ross Foster

Mechanical Engineer

Engineering and Construction Division

Corps Career: 3 years



Nikola Tesla's colossal contributions to the improvement in the quality of life for all of humanity resonate today. An immigrant with an eidetic memory, he was competitive but humble, entrepreneurial yet also philanthropic. Motivated by the pursuit of scientific perfection, Tesla expanded the base of academic theory while at the same time produced some of the most practical and ubiquitous technology of today. We all rely upon the spoils of his efforts in ways most do not understand and that is the beauty of it: fame and fortune were considered side effects when compared to the contribution to human life.

Amy Gibbons Project Manager

Planning, Programs and Project Management Division

Corps Career: 3 years



My influences are not necessarily well known leaders, but are those I have worked with and for in the past. I have had the privilege of working with a fantastic group of professionals and their leadership has taught me patience and how to see the 'forest for the trees' on long-term, large projects.

Bernard Klatte

Chief, Fisheries Section

Operations Division

Corps Career: 11 years



The world is filled with inspirational people. Sometimes we do not need to look any further than within our own circle of family and friends. At other times, we are inspired by those we know only in name. We can learn a lot from these people by studying what they said and did and applying their lessons and wisdom to our own lives. For me, my immediate family inspires me to be the best person I can be. Those I know only in name and accomplishments: Isaac Newton as a 'thinker,' Martin Luther King as a 'visionary' and Lance Armstrong for his strength.

Robin Norris

Natural Resource Specialist

Bonneville Lock and Dam

Corps Career: 25 years



I have been influenced by several people who have led well in a wide range of situations – from their own families to large organizations. I admire them and want to emulate their ability to remain trustworthy, ethical and true to their beliefs even when making hard decisions. They live their lives the same way at home as well as at work or in the public eye. They are honest about their shortcomings and work at overcoming them. They have a passion for helping people and making the world a better place. They are: Bill Bright, founder, Campus Crusade for Christ; Bill Russell, executive director, Union Gospel Mission, Portland, Ore; Jay Messenger, pastor, Grace Community Church, Gresham, Ore.; and Pat Barry, supervisory park ranger, Corps of Engineers.

Joshua Patton

Safety and Occupational Health Specialist

Safety and Occupational Health

Corps Career: 7 years



As both a military leader and statesman, retired Army General and former Secretary of State Colin Powell has been a significant modern

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Great leaders of yesterday and today

Continued from page 13

day national leader during some of our country's most trying times. Entire seminars are dedicated to his style of leadership, but the leadership quality I would like to most emulate focuses on followership. Powell is quoted as saying, "Leadership is all about followership. Effective leaders are able to get the most out the people following them, by putting them in a position to succeed by giving them the tools they need to do their job." I believe this is a fundamental trait most successful leaders possess and I strive to embrace the principle of followership as I develop into both a civil service and military leader. I also look to cultivate my skills as a good follower, learning from those in current leadership roles.



**Liza Roy,
P.E.**

**Hydraulic
Engineer**

**Engineering and
Construction
Division**

**Corps Career:
3 years**

The person who has influenced me the most is not publicly known or famous. As I saw him, my grandpa was an intelligent, resourceful, practical and steadfast man. He had Parkinson's disease for as long as I knew him but somehow carried his limitations with grace. He was a chemical engineer and avid fisherman and taught me the value of time, patience and steady effort. My grandpa never doubted that I could do anything and I strive to remember that of myself and the people I meet.

Greg Smith

**Environmental
Resource
Specialist**

**Planning,
Programs
and Project
Management
Division**

**Corps Career: 4
years**



I am most impressed by the everyday leader – especially single parents who get their kids off to school then continue to school or work themselves; who are trying to make ends meet and be a good parent. Internationally, I am impressed by how Nelson Mandela led South Africa out of the darkness of apartheid. Instead of exacting justice, even revenge, on the white minority, Mandela promoted forgiveness and reconciliation and helped establish the Truth Commission to work through the wrongs of the past and move forward with establishing a new nation.

Daniela Schlough (Gazzola)

Accountant

**Resource
Management
Office**

**Corps Career:
3 Years**



I greatly admire President Obama. He is trustworthy, courageous and a strong leader in that he is leads through consensus. This is a quiet, behind-the-scene leadership style that sometimes creates the erroneous public perception of a lack of strength – when in fact it is a highly effective leadership style

that requires humility, courage and persistence to adopt and sustain.

Obama is a leader who places the interest of our nation before the needs of the self. Every time I see him, listen to him or read about him, I feel hopeful we are going to get through this period of great challenge and become a better nation as a result. He inspires me to live according to and never lose sight of the principles and standards our nation stands for.

Justin Stegall

**Natural
Resource
Specialist**

**Rogue River
Basin Projects**

**Corps Career:
5 years**



The most influential person in my life is my wife. We have been a team, working together in this partnership, longer in this life than we have been apart. I am very thankful and fortunate to have my best friend and partner raising my children. As a bonus, after 19 years together she still greets me with a smile. ☺



Bonneville Lock and Dam

Celebrating 75 years of serving the Northwest

You Are Invited

Saturday - September 15, 2012



Please join the Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation for a momentous celebration of BPA and Bonneville Dam's 75th anniversary. In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Bonneville Dam and signed the Bonneville Project Act, bringing clean efficient hydropower to the Northwest and transforming our economy and way of life. You'll enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, family activities and light refreshments, as we celebrate the shared bounty of the Columbia River.

NOON – 4:00 p.m.

Bonneville Lock and Dam, Bradford Island Visitor Center, Cascade Locks, Oregon

Noon Music on the main stage

12:30 PM Formal ceremony including motorcade with dignitaries and special appearance by FDR.

1:30 PM Entertainment, tours, music, hands-on activities, traditional salmon baking demonstration, cultural displays and light refreshments.

4:00 PM Festivities end

Activities will be held at Bonneville Lock and Dam at the Bradford Island Visitor Center, the historic First Powerhouse and surrounding grounds. Free and open to the public.



Don't become a statistic!

Wear your life jacket! If you don't have one – borrow one!

Melissa Rinehart, Natural Resources Management

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosts 370 million visitors annually at its more than 400 lake and river projects. Last year, Portland District recorded 9.8 million of those at its own recreation areas – in the Willamette Valley, Rogue River area and along the Columbia River, where visitors of all ages enjoyed biking, hiking, boating, fishing, camping, windsurfing and more.

On average, however, 164 people per year unfortunately lose their life while recreating on Corps-managed lands and waters across the country –

89 percent of whom were not wearing a life jacket and probably never intended to end up in the water.

According to Corps of Engineers national public fatality statistics, the most at-risk visitor groups are males between the ages of 18 and 35 not wearing a life jacket and swimming in non-designated areas. Other causes for water-based recreation injuries and fatalities include falls from boats, docks and other places. Alcohol or drugs also often play a contributing factor in these instances.

In May 2012, Major General Walsh, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, signed a public fatality reduction initiative to reduce public fatalities by 50 percent on Corps lands and waters by 2014. He also shared the Corps' Strategic Campaign Plan for Reducing Public Fatalities, emphasizing the need to reach those who are most at risk. According to the plan, the target group (males, aged 18-35) has little perception of risk and therefore little motivation to wear a life jacket – although “recent studies have shown that “influencers” (i.e. spouses



Corps of Engineers photos

Life Jacket Loaner stations located at many Portland District recreation areas in the Columbia Gorge, Willamette Valley and in the Rogue River area carry life jackets for both adults and children.

Key Facts and Figures

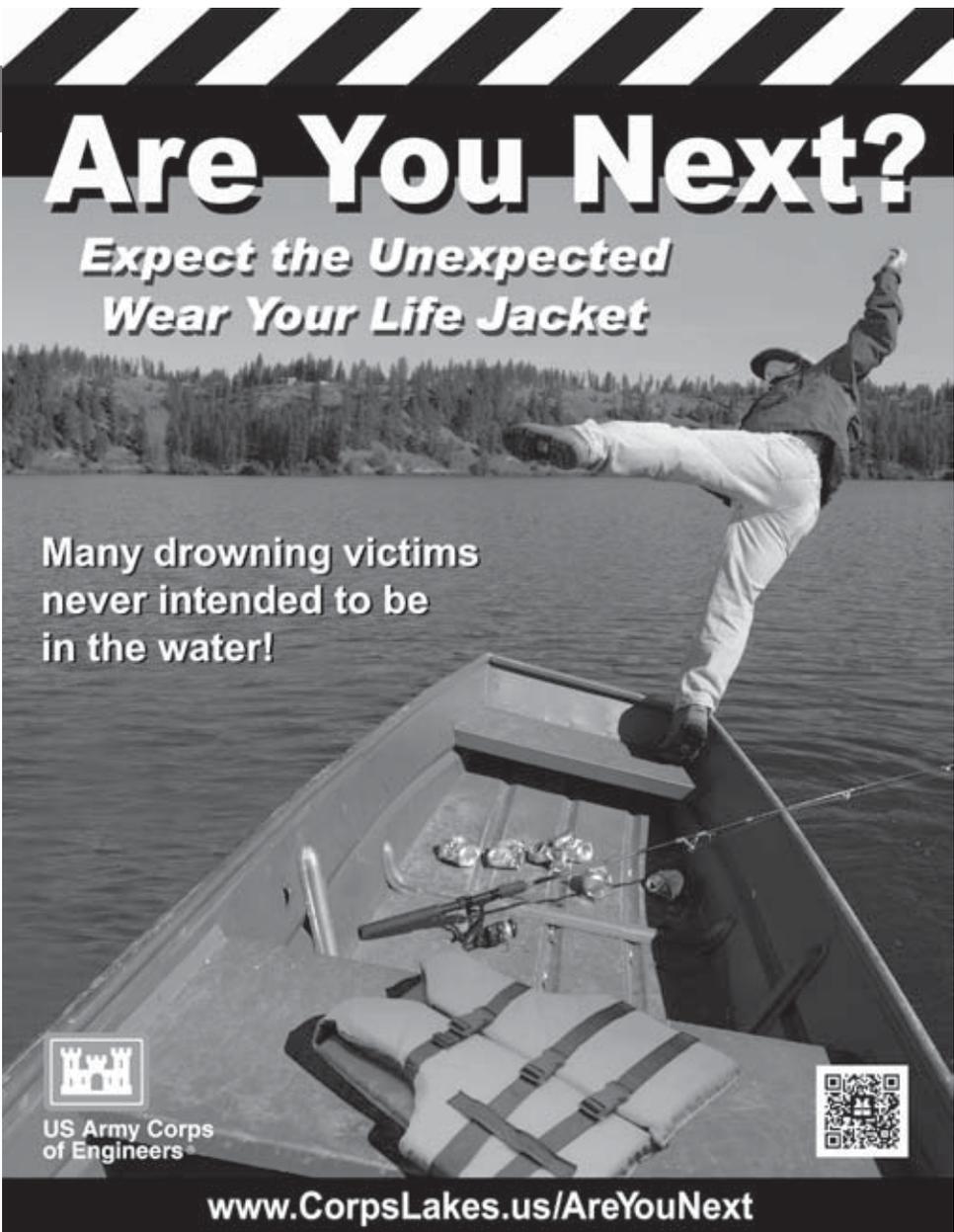
- It's important that everyone (Corps employees, volunteers and partners) stress the importance of wearing a life jacket when in and around water.
- 89 percent of water-related fatalities involve those not wearing a life jacket.
- 39 percent of public recreation fatalities involved individuals between the ages 18 – 35.
- Over 80 percent of swimming fatalities occurred in non-designated swimming areas.

and children) can be instrumental in gaining behavioral change.”

One of the ways Portland District is reaching this target audience and their “influencers” at its parks is by providing free use of life jackets through the Life Jacket Loaner Station program.

“Studies have shown that it only takes about 60 seconds to drown and at least 10 minutes for a strong swimmer to put on a life jacket after entering the water,” said Patti Williams, chief of the Natural Resources Management Section for the Portland District. “You never know when you may end up in the water so it’s better to start with your life jacket on.”

The loaner stations carry life jackets for both adults and children and are available in the Columbia River Gorge at LePage Park and Plymouth Park swim beaches and boat docks, and at



Are You Next?

*Expect the Unexpected
Wear Your Life Jacket*

**Many drowning victims
never intended to be
in the water!**


US Army Corps
of Engineers



www.CorpsLakes.us/AreYouNext

the Bonneville Lock and Dam Hamilton Island boat ramp. In the Willamette Valley, visitors will find loaner stations at the Pine Meadows campground and Lakeside Day Use area on Cottage Grove Lake, Schwarz Park on Dorena Lake and at Richardson Park on Fern Ridge Lake. Visitors to the Rogue River area in southern Oregon will find loaner stations at Joseph H. Stewart State Park boat ramp and Takelma Park boat ramp.

According to national recreation statistics, 96% of drowning victims would be alive today if they had worn a life jacket.

“If we save even one life then we have succeeded with our life jacket loaner program,” said Jim Mahar, Chief of Operations for the Portland District. “Wearing your life jacket is the single most important lifesaving action that you can take to protect yourself and your family.”

For more information about USACE’s water safety program, visit <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Recreation/WaterSafety.aspx>. 



Bonneville rope rescue team



By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

When you look upstream at Bonneville Lock and Dam, there doesn't seem to be anywhere a rappelling team would be needed. As a run-of-river dam, there are no high monoliths needing inspection like at Grand Coulee Dam. While Bonneville appears more ranch-style than its high-head cousins, there are places within the structure where rappelling is still the best transport option.

"We have many places that are hard to get to," said Tony Kirk, Bonneville's supervisory maintenance manager. "Draft tubes are very difficult to reach after they're dewatered."

Each of Bonneville's 20 turbines hangs above a 90-foot deep tube where water flows after passing the turbine blades. Fish often find their way into draft tubes, so after dewatering, fish biologists and other staff members need to enter the tubes and remove them. Personnel rescue in this area, if required, would be extremely difficult and dangerous without the properly

trained rescuers. "Our rope rescue team sets up in the gallery each time we dewater a draft tube," said Kirk. "They have their equipment all prepped and staged before the first biologist heads down. They ensure the team descends safely and then brings the recovered fish in containers back to the top, where they are transferred outside to the river."

Staging equipment to support Bonneville's fish biologists during an activity like this offers the RRT an opportunity to train in preparing for emergencies that require rope rescue personnel.

"Bonneville Dam started the Bonneville Emergency Response Team about 14 years ago," said Kirk. "As a result of past BERT rescues and the potential for future rescues, we determined we needed to expand the capabilities of the team, so if needed they could conduct a rescue in the many difficult areas workers must access. The RRT was formed to meet that need. Thankfully we haven't needed any rope



RRT member trains at Bonneville dam to prepare for emergencies that require rope rescue personnel.

rescues yet, but having them able to stand by during access operations gives us an added measure of safety."

Bonneville's rural setting offers another expertise that helped the RRT with a very unusual task in May, according to Jason Hill, Bonneville crane operator leader, RRT leader and volunteer emergency medical technician. "Rope rescue requires expertise in rappelling, first aid and emergency medical procedures. One skill not always called for is being able to handle a chain saw," said Hill.

Corps of Engineers photos



gets a new job

In rural Washington, many people have experience handling chain saws, but the Corps requires all employees using equipment like chain saws to be certified. Bonneville often needs trees or deadfall removed and the Corps routinely certifies employees in safe chain saw usage. Bonneville Dam certified eight employees this year – three of which were RRT members, who found their certification was critical for a job removing trees from a steep, 200-foot slope.

“The District Dam Safety inspection team identified trees growing on the sides of the Sediment Retention Structure at Mount St. Helens as a hazard that needed to be removed,” said Kirk. “They wanted us to hire a contractor, but we told them we have the skill to do the job ourselves.”

Armed with the proper gear and experience, the RRT set out May 21 to remove trees growing from the shotcrete, material used to form the slopes upstream of the SRS when it was constructed in 1989.

Earlier, the team traveled to the SRS for a site reconnaissance, developed an initial on-site plan, then returned to the office and developed a comprehensive Activity Hazardous Analysis. Plans called for one safety officer, who would coordinate the team’s movement from the other slope and six team members who would remove the trees.

“Bonneville’s Safety office was pleased we had two EMTs and planned for multiple landing zones during the operation,” said Kirk. “Michael Spears was the safety officer, which meant he monitored the activity at all times, coordinating each anchor point on the shotcrete to ensure safe descent and ascent as the guys removed the trees.” Spears is an EMT and member of the structural crew at Bonneville Dam.



A member of Bonneville’s rope rescue team rappels down to a tree growing on the Sediment Retention Structure May 21, 2012. The team removed 200 trees in about 20 work hours.

By May 23, 200 trees were removed. Some of the trees were allowed to fall to the bottom of the slope while many of them were put through a chipper and returned to the environment. “The team did an outstanding job,” said Kirk. “They did a week’s worth of work in about 20 hours – all without incident.”

You’ll find dangerous places anywhere big equipment is operated and Bonneville Lock and Dam is no exception. Being prepared with proper safety gear, a well-planned operation and skilled employees minimizes the risk of injury to people or infrastructure. At Bonneville they have one more asset: a skilled team prepared to support workers entering hard-to-reach



places who are prepared to use their EMT and rappelling experience. “We’d much rather train for emergencies and never be needed,” said Hill. “It’s good practice for us to stage our equipment and then just pack it back up again. But if there’s ever a first time we’re needed for an actual emergency, Bonneville’s rope rescue team will be there, ready to help.” 📺



Sharing the Corps' message

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

Staying safe in Corps waters

While enjoying the summer at Corps recreation sites all around the region, everyone is reminded to use extra caution while in or around the water. Be sure everyone in your group follows these water safety tips to ensure a safer recreation experience:

- **Wear your life jacket:** Each year about 4,000 people drown in the United States. This is the second leading cause of accidental deaths for persons 15 to 44 years of age. The majority of these tragedies could have been prevented by simply wearing a life jacket. Please do your friends and loved ones a favor – wear a lifejacket.
- **Learn to swim well and don't overestimate your skill.** Once you know how to swim, always swim with a buddy. Don't rely on inner tubes or water toys to keep you afloat. Know your limits. Each year many people drown by overestimating their swimming skills and swimming beyond their limits.
- **Beware of cold water:** Cold-water immersion can cause hypothermia and usually results in an automatic 'gasp' reflex (which can be fatal if you're not wearing your life jacket). Hypothermia occurs when the body loses heat faster than it can produce it. This can happen in any season, especially in the Pacific Northwest, where water temperatures remain low all year.
- **Don't drink and boat:** About half of adolescent and adult deaths associated with water recreation involve alcohol use. This is about one in five reported boating fatalities. Just one beer can impair your balance, vision, judgment and reaction time, making you a potential danger to yourself and others. Don't include alcohol in your outing if you are planning to have fun in, on or near the water.
- **Wearing your life jacket is the single most important lifesaving action that you can take to protect yourself and your family.**



Coyote Island Terminal permit application

Our Regulatory Branch is reviewing Ambre Energy's application for a permit to build a coal transfer facility at the Port of Morrow near Boardman, Ore. Coal would be brought to the facility via rail, transferred to barges, shipped down the Columbia River to Port Westward near Clatskanie, Ore., and loaded onto ocean-going vessels for export.

- We are committed to protecting and maintaining our Nation's navigable waters through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. Our authority over the proposed facility is Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which requires a permit for the construction of any structure in, over or under a navigable waterway.
- We will not rule on activities beyond the scope of our authority. We analyze the specific activity requiring a permit – in this case, the dock facility. We can extend the scope of our analysis beyond the dock facility only if appropriate under our regulations and other relevant laws.
- Individually or as part of a broader analysis, we will assess the proposal's impacts to the public interest. Our permit decision will be based on a thorough evaluation of the proposal's environmental, cultural, recreational, navigational, energy and economic impacts. For more information visit: <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/About/Currentprojects/CoyoteIslandTerminal.aspx>.

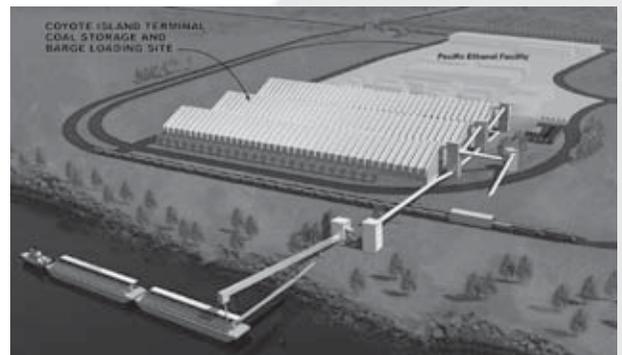


Photo Courtesy of Morrow Pacific Project