

# CORPS' PONDENT

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November - December 2012



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District



Veterans and volunteers  
enjoy a day of fishing during  
Portland District's first ever  
"Take a Warrior Fishing"  
event on the Columbia River.

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November - December 2012

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





## The benefits of Portland District partnerships

On Oct. 28, I escorted Northwestern Division commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser to see fish projects in the Willamette Valley and, on our return, we stopped to see the Crystal Springs Creek and Westmoreland Park Ecosystem Restoration project, which involves restoring a portion of Crystal Springs Creek to improve fish habitat and passage. Both are examples of leveraging partnerships to provide quality services to the nation.

I mention these partnerships because I want to highlight the value they bring to our mission...and how each of you contributes to these relationships.

You may think you're just doing your job when working with each other, with someone from another Corps office, with government or other public service staff, or with those from private businesses. But, in effect, you're supporting both our formal and informal partnerships.

One definition of partnership is 'joint business venture.' In short, we are working together toward a common purpose and you help cultivate these relationships – building our partners trust by collaborating on work projects, by keeping lines of communication open and by helping them keep connected to the work being done.

In the near term, this makes for great working relationships with others with whom we do business. In the long run, our partners also get a better understanding of our values and who we are as an organization and how we do business. Then, when we encounter challenges, we can work through those issues better because we built a solid, trusting relationship.

The essential difference between an informal and formal partnership is a piece of paper that outlines how we will work together and for how long.

Formal partnerships, like the one we have with the City of Portland on the



*Col. John Eisenhauer, P.E.*

Crystal Springs/Westmoreland project require documentation to legally establish the relationship. In this case, Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 allows the Corps to partner with a non-federal agency (the City) to restore degraded aquatic ecosystems.

Informal partnerships are relationships with those with whom we regularly work, such as the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association. It's natural that we partner together because we have a common mission relating to navigation. We both want to preserve the economic

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Corps of Engineers photos

Portland District Project Manager Jim Adams (right) and City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Service Public Information Officer Ronda Fast (center) show Northwestern Division Commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser (left) the completed first phase of the Crystal Springs Creek and Westmoreland Park Ecosystem Restoration Project in Portland's Sellwood neighborhood. The project will improve salmon habitat and passage in an urban setting.

### **NWD Commander visits Portland District projects**

Northwestern Division Commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser visited Portland District Oct. 18-19. During his visit, he toured the Dredge *Essayons* and several project sites, including Bonneville Lock and Dam, Detroit Dam, Willamette Falls Locks and the Minto Adult Fish Collection Facility construction site. The goal of the visit was to demonstrate the District's complex mission and dedicated, professional workforce.



Continued from page 3

benefits that the Columbia and Snake rivers and other waterways bring to the Pacific Northwest.

So, when we needed to close the navigation locks at our three Columbia River dams for an extended time last year, Matt Cutts, program manager for the effort, said PNWA was instrumental in helping to bring involved businesses, ports and other organizations they work with from across the Pacific Northwest to the table to help organize the effort. We didn't have a formal piece of paper in place for this, but we shared a common goal.

Similarly, we partner inside the government with other federal agencies as well as within our own organization to accomplish shared missions. We partner with the Bonneville Power Administration who sells the power our dams produce. We also partner with the U.S. Army through continued deployment of our employees to Afghanistan.

Again, you each contribute to our partnerships in the way your job allows, whether as a program analyst or an engineer or the project manager. Everything you do to support successful completion of a project makes a difference. Ultimately, these efforts benefit the U.S. taxpayers because of

the reduced costs and timeframes our partnerships bring.

On another note about the coming holidays, Kate, Stella, Johnny and I wish you all the best as you celebrate the upcoming holidays with your family and friends and hope that, in the midst of the festivities, you will take a quiet moment to think about all the people who have brought joy and good things to your lives.

Be safe as you travel. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and a great New Year! 🇺🇸

*COL Ike*

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## 2012 Corps of Engineers Value Engineering Professional of the Year Jason Weber, Engineer and Construction Division



Corps of Engineers photo

Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Chief of Engineers, recognized Jason Weber, Engineering and Construction Division, as the 2012 USACE Value Engineering Professional of the Year at the Corps' Senior Leaders Conference held last August in Little Rock, Ark.



# *In Memoriam*

*Wayne Ryan*

Nov. 21, 1962 to Oct. 17, 2012

Wayne Ryan’s death is a great loss to the employees of the John Day and Willow Creek Project and to others in the District who knew and worked with him.

Ryan joined the Portland District as an electrician on Jan. 19, 2010, after a long military career that started with his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force and ended, after 22 years, with his retirement as chief master sergeant from the Air National Guard at Buckley Field in Colorado.

His skills were second to none but he was humble about them. He was an absolute pleasure to work with and will be sorely missed by all his co-workers.



Corps of Engineers photo

Ryan was born on the Isle of Jersey, Great Britain in the town of St. Heleir but attended high school in Hawaii.

He is survived by his mother, Janice Anderson and sister, Johanna.

Wayne loved the beach, cigars, and Harleys. God speed “Uncle Wayne.” 🇺🇸

Wayne Ryan worked as an electrician at John Day Lock and Dam since 2010.



# Portland District People

## Joshua Simonsen

Electrician, John Day Lock and Dam



### Describe your job:

I am a power plant electrician. I maintain, troubleshoot and repair generators and auxiliary equipment – which can be as easy as changing a light bulb or something more complex like complete circuit rebuilds.

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

Most days, I do different things. I work on diverse electrical systems, all of which require my understanding of how they each operate. I have found (often while sitting in training) that I am not suited to desk work – doing one or two tasks but am much happier out on the floor where I interact with different crews on a variety of equipment.

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

Recently I received a trouble request to investigate why the north fish way crane wouldn't move. In a nutshell, I found it had a bad motor which I replaced – which then made it possible for a contractor to replace a fish pump. In the end, both repairs ultimately helped the District to meet its mission of fish and environmental stewardship.

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

Being able to come to work and have something different to do most days, interacting with different personalities and equipment and being challenged by those interactions, and figuring out how I can make a positive impact with those interactions.

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

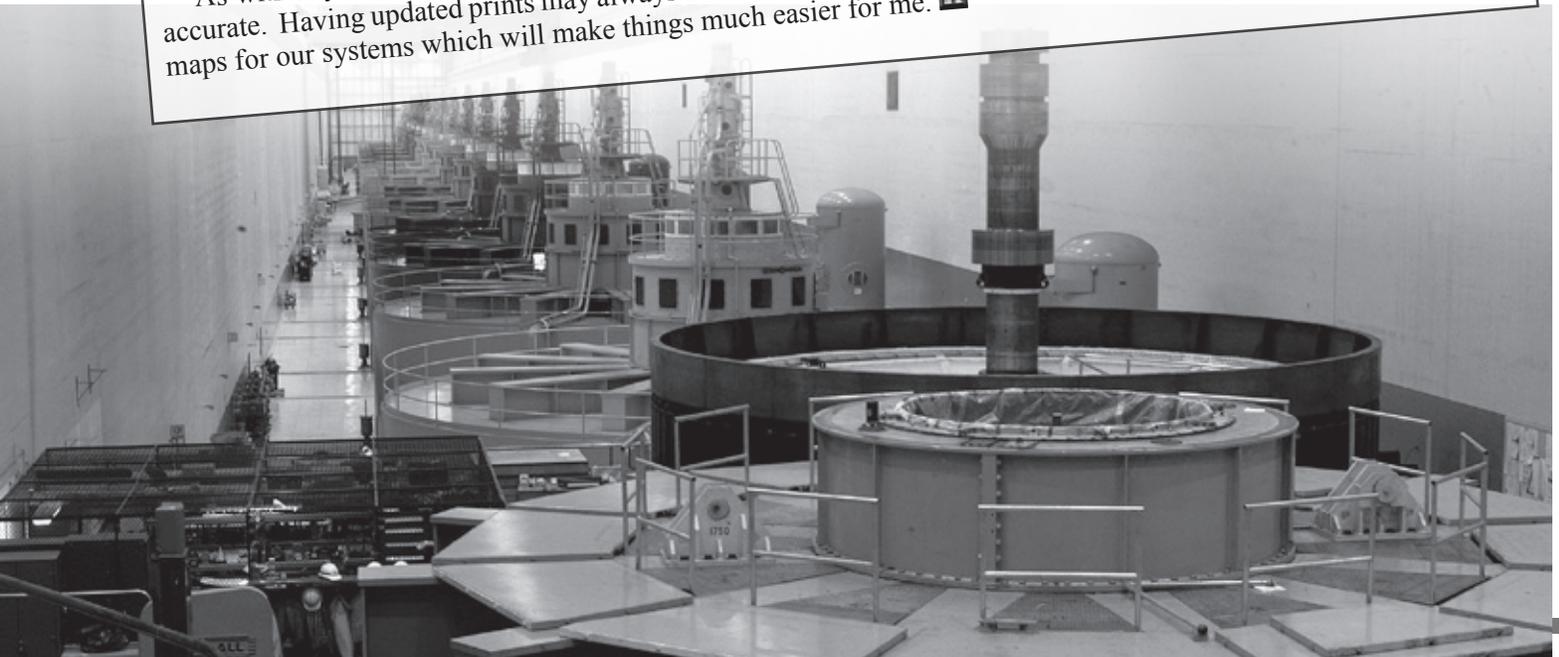
I have been with this District for about six months and have noticed more of a “family” atmosphere here than at the District where I worked before.

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

I am pretty happy where I am in my career – as an Grade 1 electrician. I don't feel the need to climb the ladder higher or look at a different field right now. I enjoy what I do and want to keep doing it until my body tells me to stop – then, maybe, I will look into doing something different.

### What is the one thing you need in order to do your job better?

As with anything electrical, it's often hard to determine which of the 10 prints I'm looking at, is the closest to accurate. Having updated prints may always be an issue, but the good thing is, we are currently working on as-builts maps for our systems which will make things much easier for me. 



Corps of Engineers photos



# Ethics training provides baseline for professional conduct

By Eric Hamilton, Public Affairs Office

**H**ave you ever wondered what a one-hour consultation with an experienced lawyer is worth? What if that advice could save your job or help you avoid a crime? Attorneys Jim Herald and Doug Craner from Portland District's Office of Counsel gave sage advice on just that, through an ethics training with Portland District employees last October.

For example, the Hatch Act limits federal employees' options regarding elections and partisan politics – and a single violation can cost you your job.

The law protects employees from discipline for violating ethics regulations, Herald said, provided that the violation was a good-faith action that followed the guidance of an ethics counselor. If the lawyer's advice proved to be wrong, for reasons unrelated to information omitted by the employee, the employee has not committed misconduct. Taking the exact same action without talking to counsel first is misconduct.

Though ethics may seem familiar and maybe even boringly repetitive, there was a spark of enthusiasm, and a very real appreciation for the impact of real-life ethics failures after Herald

spoke of his childhood visits to his father's workplace – a federal prison. The prison was where essentially all of those convicted in the Watergate scandal finished their prison terms. While the grounds were spacious, and the front lawn the size of a dozen football fields, those on the other side of the bars did not experience a "country club" environment. Ethics violations can lead to much more than a "slap on the wrist."

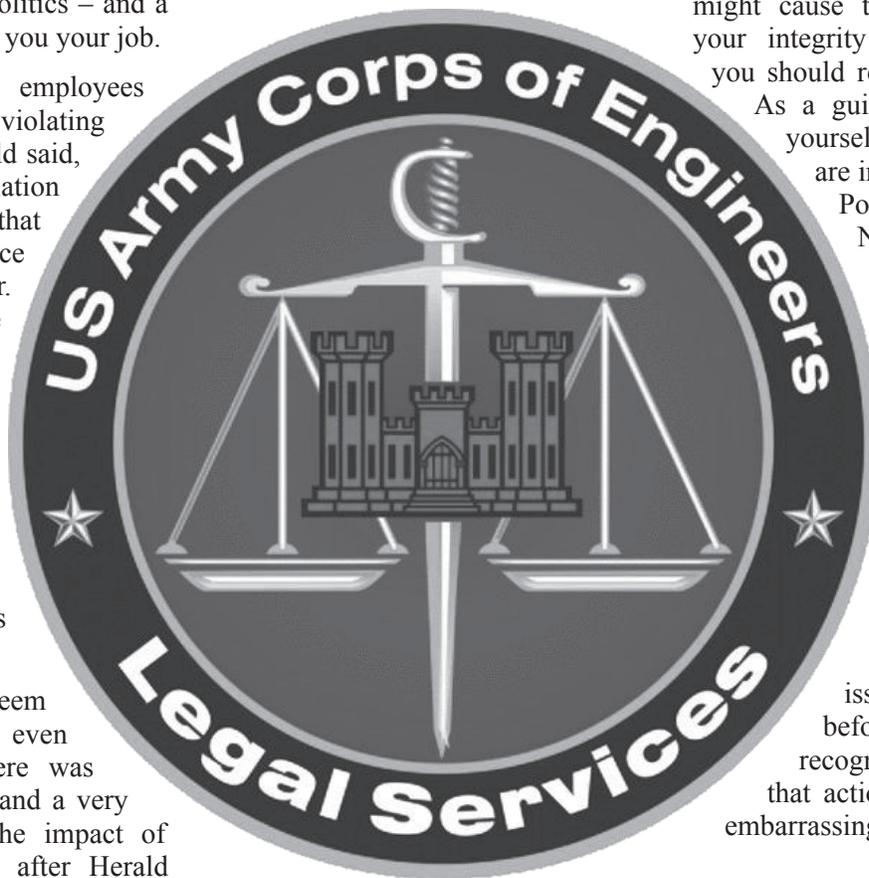
With that sobering image in mind, it was easy to remember key take-away points for proper ethical conduct: don't misuse government resources (including official position, authority or the official time of self or subordinates) for private gain; the federal government, which means us, does not give endorsements; and we do not disclose or use any non-public information except to do our jobs.

If you wonder whether your actions might cause the public to question your integrity or impartiality, then you should reconsider your actions.

As a guide, Herald said, "Ask yourself whether your actions are in the best interest of the Portland District and our Nation? Would you do the same thing with the commander looking over your shoulder?"

The bottom line: In this area, "the difference between asking permission and asking forgiveness is the difference between being denied and being fired," Herald said.

The key is to raise issues and concerns before acting, and if you recognize a problem, stop that action, even if stopping is embarrassing. 





# Getting ready for winter

## Winterize Your Home



### Alternate Heat Sources

Plan for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient alternate heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. Be sure wood stoves or space heaters are properly ventilated and observe fire safeguards.

### Insulate Inside

Extend the life of your heat supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

### Winterize Other Shelters

Winterize any other structure that may provide shelter for you or your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment.



### Roof and Gutters

Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on your house or other structure during a storm.



### Protect Your Pipes

Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing. Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

### Fire Safety

Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires are an additional risk as people use alternate heating sources without observing safety precautions.



Photos courtesy of the OregonLive

## When the storm hits

- Stay inside when a winter storm approaches. Exposure to cold can cause frostbite or hypothermia and become life-threatening. Infants and the elderly are the most susceptible.

- Close off unneeded rooms and stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors and cover windows at night. Ensure that all doors and windows are weatherproofed.

- Eat and drink sufficient amounts of water. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.

- Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight warm clothing. Remove layers as necessary to avoid overheating. Ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat and water-resistant boots.

- Have extra blankets on hand for added warmth.

- Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter.

- Never use a generator indoors! If you decide to use a back-up power generator be sure that it is properly ventilated outdoors. Avoid using barbecues indoors for heat and cooking. Use of both items indoors can easily lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees!

### A basic emergency supply kit should include the following items:



- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Manual can opener for food.
- Local maps.
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.



# Veterans go fishing



By Amber Tilton, The Dalles Lock and Dam

**“Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.”  
~Henry David Thoreau**

**D**id you know that the Corps of Engineers, along with other federal agencies, has a nationwide partnership with Catch a Special Thrill foundation? Together, we seek to develop and implement recreation programs, projects and activities that serve children and military service members with disabilities and/or disadvantages.

One such event, Take a Warrior Fishing, has become quite successful at Corps river and lake projects around the country. It encourages fishing as a therapeutic activity and promotes the exploration and enjoyment of public lands. The event supports President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative which also seeks to connect people to the outdoors.

As an agency, the Corps has been entrusted with the care and protection of over 12 million acres of land and water for the use of recreation. As a part of the Army, we have a unique opportunity to advocate access for our military service men and women. “Not everyone has access to recreational opportunities, which is a shame because having fun and healthy experiences with nature is, quite simply, healing,” said Jim Owens, executive director of the CAST foundation.

Corps of Engineers park rangers from The Dalles Lock and Dam with assistance from

Bonneville Lock and Dam and other Corps personnel, hosted a Take a Warrior Fishing event last September. Veterans who had served in World War II, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan respectively, and their families participated in this first Corps-CAST event on the Columbia River at Lake Celilo.

Volunteer boat captains came from as far as Wilsonville and Albany, Ore. and Battleground, Wash. to support the veterans. The morning began at The Dalles Dam where veterans were paired with captains before launching in search of bass and other game fish. Like the volunteers, the veterans had traveled from as far as Beaverton and Milwaukie, Ore., although a few locals joined from The Dalles and Rufus.

Confirming the Columbia River Gorges’ reputation for wind, the day was breezy and crisp with plenty of sunshine and fish to go around!

All State Insurance and North West Industrial Supply helped sponsor the event by cooking up a barbeque lunch. Grinders, a local coffee bistro, donated coffee coupons and the Corps provided water safety grab bags. CAST topped the bags off with free Take A Warrior Fishing t-shirts and hats for all volunteers and participants.

“As a federal agency, this partnership with CAST to host a veterans fishing event was a perfect match and an outstanding way for us at The Dalles to close another successful recreation season,” said Kelly Thomas, natural resource manager at The Dalles Lock and Dam. “We plan to host the event annually and will continue to work with CAST to connect veterans and others to our parks.”

If you would like to host a Take A Warrior Fishing event or

to learn more about future fishing and recreational opportunities, visit: <http://www.castforkids.org>, or check out our recreation information under the Missions tab at [www.nwp.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil).

Visit the NRM Gateway <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/ground.cfm?Partner=cast> for other success stories involving CAST and USACE. 



Bonneville’s ranger patrol boat provided safety oversight.

Veterans who served in World War II, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and their families participated in the first local Corps-CAST event on the Columbia River near The Dalles Dam.



Corps of Engineers photos

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Catch a Special Thrill foundation hosted a “Take a Warrior Fishing” day Sept. 22, where volunteers and veterans enjoyed fishing for bass and other game fish.



CAST and its Take a Warrior Fishing program encourages those who have served in the military to explore and enjoy public lands, and supports the President’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative.





# Pile dikes survive changing times to support navigation...

## Pose potential to aid fish recovery

By Amy Echols, Public Affairs Office

**L**ow water in the Columbia River exposes Corps infrastructure that predates the impressive dams by 50 years. Water running high from melting snow and spring rain submerges these structures, creating underwater hazards for today's mariners.

Such are pile dikes, structures built from wooden pilings that extend from the shore into the river, looking today like skinny, long-abandoned piers. Also known as wing dams, they serve to stabilize the river's shore and adjust and manage flows in the navigation channel to eliminate or reduce shoals to reduce the need for maintenance dredging.

The Corps constructed 233 pile dikes from 1885, when the lower Columbia was a dynamic river system no more than 15 feet deep, until 1969. Demonstrating their value to navigation, pile dikes constructed and extended into the stretch of the Columbia from Puget Island to Vancouver, Wash., reduced the need for dredging by over one million cubic yards of sand as compared to the previous five years.

Samuel Clemens wrote about pile dikes in his 1883 *Life on the Mississippi*, remarking on the Corps' mission

"of making the Mississippi over again." Clemens summarized the goal of this river infrastructure as "wing dams to deflect the current; and dikes to confine it to narrower bounds; and other dikes to make it stay there."

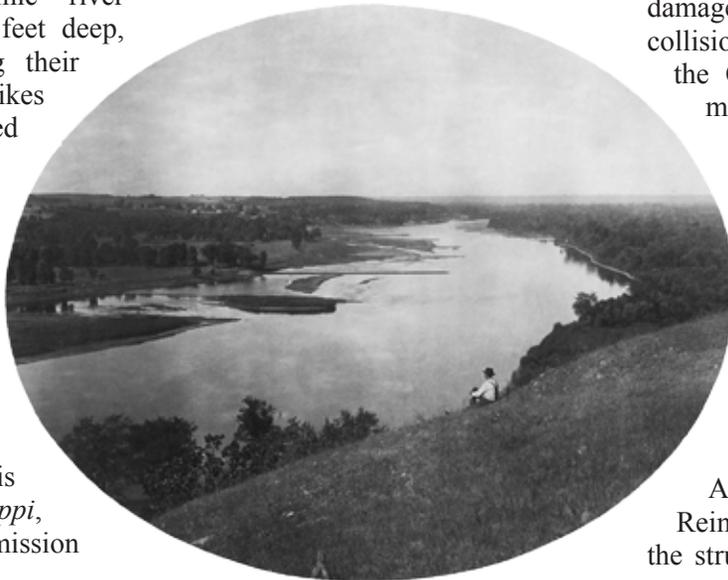
The Corps out West also built river infrastructure, constructing pile dikes by driving two parallel rows of vertical timbers into the riverbed and bolting horizontal timber spreaders across them. Each pile dike increased the scouring flow of the river and provided bank protection over approximately 2,000 feet. At the riverward end of each dike is a cluster of 10 or more taller pilings, bound with wire rope to provide optimal strength. One pile, the "king" pile, is taller than the others, and defines the channel end of the pile dike during high water for safety. The vertical piles, with the exception of the outer

marker, are cut low enough to keep the piles and spreaders continuously wet (except during low river conditions). This reduces rot, allows debris to pass harmlessly over the top during high water and does not impede flow.

Much has changed in the lower Columbia River Basin since 1885 and river conditions for which the Corps designed the pile dikes are not the same today. Logging, dam construction, the conversion of floodplains to agricultural land and the construction of the federal navigation channel itself have changed the timing and magnitude of river flows and the supply and transport of sediment and large woody debris.

The Corps regularly maintained the pile dikes through 1991, but recently repairs have been limited to the king piles as they deteriorated or were damaged by flood debris or vessel collisions. Facing funding constraints, the Corps has not performed any maintenance since 1998. In varying states of deterioration, pile dikes still intersect the river from the mouth of the Columbia River over 140 miles upriver to Bonneville Dam. But do they still function after so many years?

Portland District received funding in 2009 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to determine if the structures still meet their original



Pile dikes have long served to remake rivers to suit navigation demands.



purpose. An assessment determined that over 70 percent of the pile dikes still help reduce maintenance dredging and protect sites where dredged material where disposed in years past. However, many pile dikes are completely concealed underwater during period of high spring flow on the Columbia River.

“This information is helping us decide whether to repair, remove, monitor or further study these pile dikes, and to prioritize future actions,” said Jessica Stokke, project manager, Waterways Maintenance Section. “Our immediate focus is to improve safe navigation around pile dikes by increasing public awareness.”

The assessment stimulated conversation about the potential value of these pile dikes in creating or maintaining shallow-water habitat for fish under certain conditions. In other conditions, however, pile dikes may cause localized scour or erosion by altering hydraulics and/or sediment transport. And that is not so good for fish.

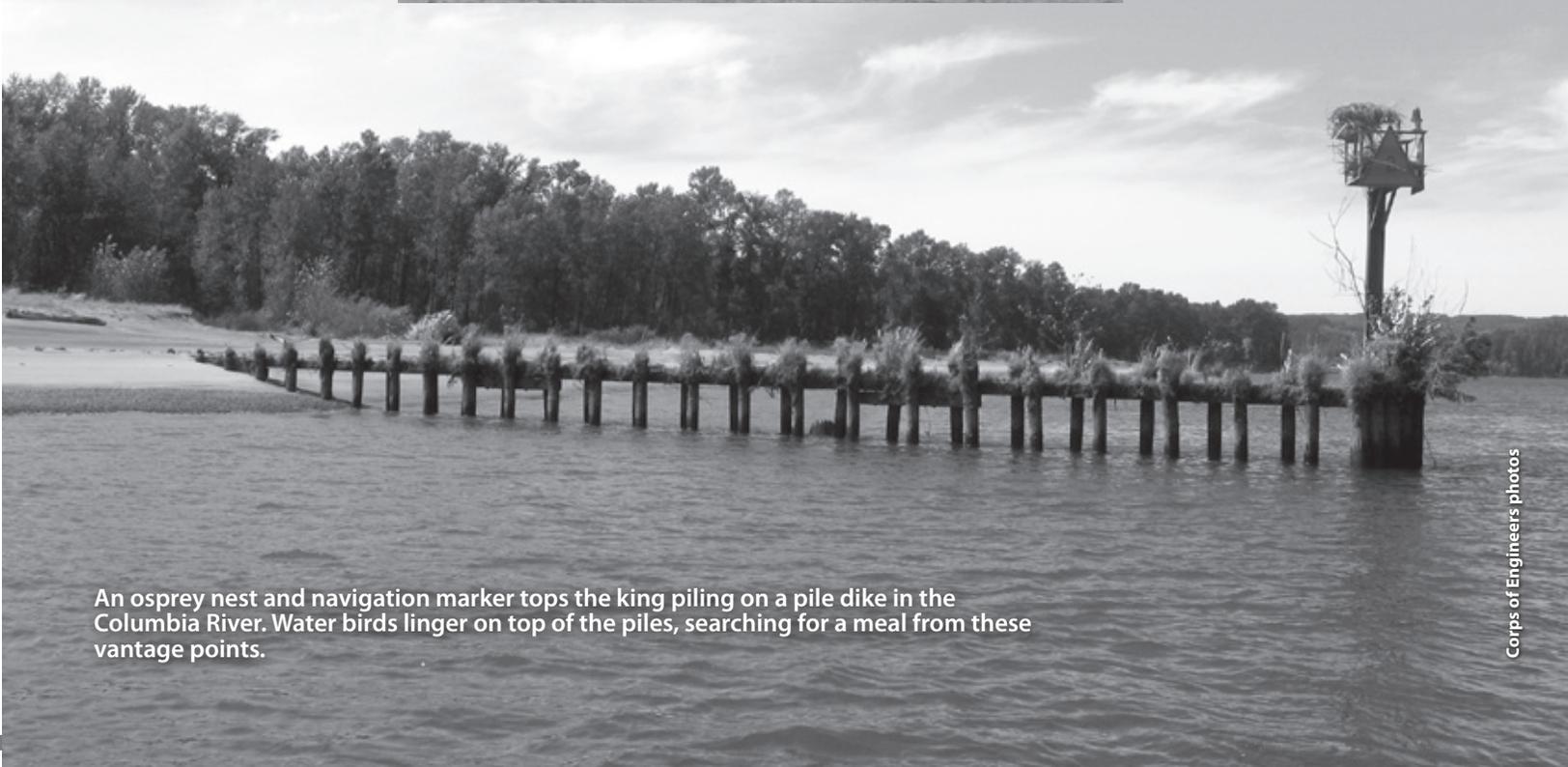
“Adult fish may use the low-energy areas immediately downstream of pile dikes to rest on their migration upriver to spawn, and the juveniles may use these same areas for refuge and rearing on their downstream migration,” said Corps biologist Kristine Lightner. “The

fish could be spending a portion of their lifecycle in areas around pile dikes as they transition to and from the ocean. This potential benefit is worth studying in more detail, especially in light of our mission to help restore endangered fish populations, and their habitat, throughout the basin.”

The scientific jury is still out on pile dikes’ value to fish recovery but even the oldest pile dikes still help maintain the Columbia River’s navigation channel and have stood tall against the vast changes in the river.



Deteriorating pile dikes pose hazards to boaters when the river, flowing high in the spring, obscures the structures from view.



An osprey nest and navigation marker tops the king piling on a pile dike in the Columbia River. Water birds linger on top of the piles, searching for a meal from these vantage points.

Corps of Engineers photos



# Portland District continues its history in Afghanistan



Erica Jensen, Public Affairs Office and James Ediger, Operations Division

**M**ore than 130 Portland District employees have deployed to Afghanistan since 2003.

The first Corps District was established in Kabul in 2005, another was established in Kandahar in 2009. These Districts work with many other resident, area and projects offices throughout the country to support of billions' of dollars of infrastructure construction across Afghanistan. Today there are a total of 711 Corps of Engineers employees deployed there.

With Afghanistan troop levels being discussed in the media, many wonder, after so many years in country, is the Corps winding down its deployment operations in the country?

Portland District Commander Col. John Eisenhower says no, "I believe there is a sense that, with Iraq deployments over and the appearance that Afghanistan is winding down, the need for Corps civilian volunteers is not the priority it was a year ago. The reality is that a majority of the construction budget, however, still must be executed. The need for volunteers in Afghanistan is not decreasing - but remains strong."

Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre, Commander of the Transatlantic Division, also confirmed that, while operations in Afghanistan are changing, the need for deployees remains strong, at least until late 2014, when the Corps' mission is scheduled to end.

"Starting in the summer of 2013, we will move to a one-District

## Steps to deployment in Afghanistan



operation located in northern Afghanistan," said Eyre. "This new District, called the Transatlantic Afghanistan District or TAA, will lead our efforts through July 2014, when our remaining activities will be transferred to the Middle East District." (The Transatlantic-South headquarters in Kandahar will become an area office.)

The Corps' transition to one District represents success and progress, Eyre said. "The evolution will be gradual, as there is still a constant need for a stream of volunteers to complete existing work and mission. It's expected that 9- and 12-month deployments will continue for the foreseeable future."

The Districts' consolidation must be transparent to its customers, assuring continuous operations, because the Corps' services are critical to enabling the delicate balance between drawing down the coalition forces and standing up the Afghan Security Forces, Eyre said.

"2013 rounds out nearly a decade of Portland District service to Afghanistan, and even though our mission there is nearly complete, our deployment requirements remain strong," said Eisenhower. "The bottom line is that we still need engineers, project managers, contracting staff, security and safety specialists and many other professionals to support our operations until we officially transfer this mission in 2014 to the citizens of Afghanistan."



**Mary Beth McNair**  
Project Engineer  
Transatlantic-North District

**Why did you deploy?** I thought it would be a great opportunity to strengthen my skills in a challenging environment.

**What is most rewarding about your job in Afghanistan?** The diversity of cultures – the people here represent many countries.

**Of what project are you most proud?** One project does not stand out. Each project has its high moments and challenges.

**Most memorable experience?** The people you meet, on and off the Forward Operating Base.

**Roger Schlough**  
Construction Representative  
Transatlantic-North District



**Why did you deploy?** I wanted to see how things were over here. I like a challenge and this experience has certainly delivered.

**What is most rewarding about your job in Afghanistan?** Getting to know the people I work with and their culture

– Italians, Portuguese, French, Jordanians, Spaniards, Filipinos, South Africans, Mongolians, Brits, Bulgarians and Croatians.

**Of what project are you most proud?** I'm proud when I get the mentors, Local National quality assurance personnel, facility engineers and base commanders all working together toward a mutual goal.

**Most memorable experience?** Deploying with my wife. We didn't have the comforts of home but we had each other.

**Thareth Yin**  
Project Engineer  
Transatlantic-North District



**Why did you deploy?** Adventure, interesting work and to help obtain my goals.

**What is most rewarding about your job in Afghanistan?** Working with the local national engineers in our office and making progress on my construction projects.

**Of what project are you most proud?** Gamberi ANA base Phase V Expansion.

**Most memorable experience?** Nineteen project site fly overs in a helicopter to take aerial photos.

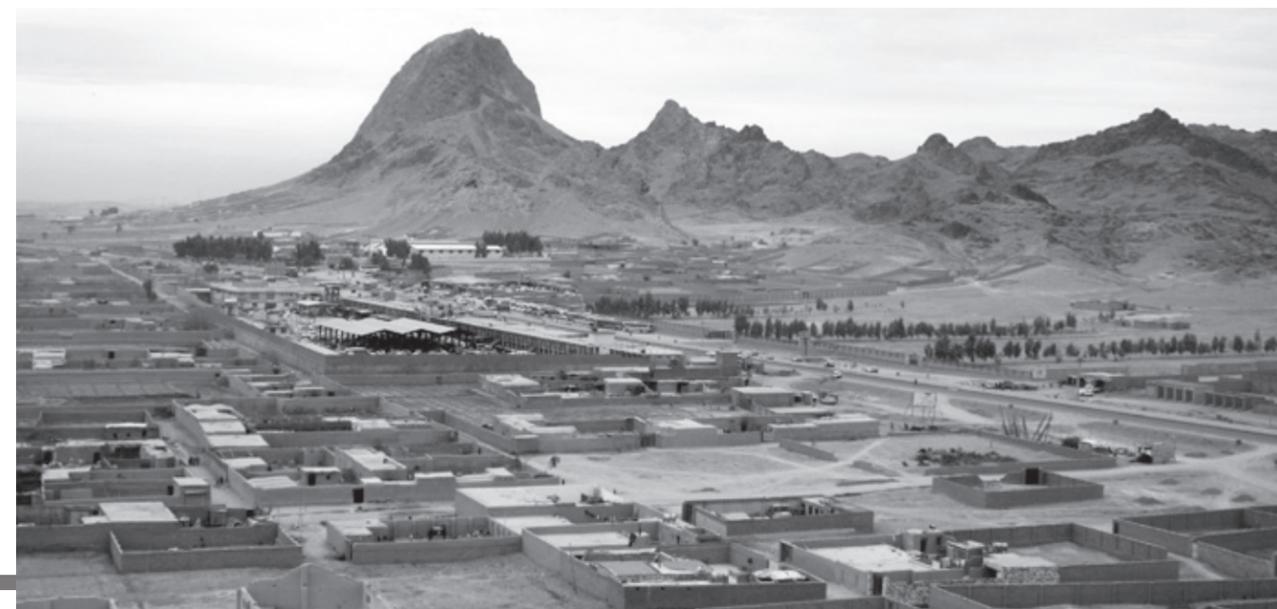


Photo by James Ediger, Deployment Office



# Setting a whirlwind pace

## Corps' new engineer dive team surfaces in 2012

A first person report by Richard A. Benoit, Portland District Office of Dive and ROV Operations and Safety

**F**our countries, three continents, eight cities and towns and two islands: this hectic schedule belongs to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' newly formed Forward Response Dive and Survey Team during its 2012 inaugural season.

By the end of this year the team will have traveled more than 50,000 miles during 80 operational days, flawlessly executing six underwater and two survey missions.

We've been very busy, but it's been a labor of love getting the program off the ground to the point where we are working underwater wherever and whenever we are needed.

Conceived shortly after I started working in Portland District six years ago, it was not until January 2012 that the team first saw action. That mission was jointly facilitated using USACE divers from Portland and San Francisco districts and from the Navy Dive Locker in Bangor, Wash. That first mission was an emergency operation to assist the U.S. Coast Guard at Station Coo Bay.

Since then, the team, made up of members from throughout USACE and led by the Portland District's Office of Dive and ROV Operations and Safety, has safely accomplished missions in Japan, South Korea and Italy.

Two major developments allowed the team to develop as it has: Portland District hired Deputy District Dive Coordinator Todd Manny in 2009, and the Corps' Engineering Research and

Development Center agreed to serve as the team's dive safety office.

Manny is a retired Navy senior chief who brings 22 years of military experience to the Portland District as a first class and saturation diver. He also has operational expertise with remotely operated vehicles, underwater robots and cameras known as ROVs.

"This has been an exciting time for the Dive Office and the Dive Program," said Manny. "We have an exceptional dive program made up of very dedicated people. Together we've been able to safely and efficiently accomplish a lot of good work benefitting USACE, as well as other military and federal agencies."

During 12 days in October, Manny and I led a team of seven to Busan, South Korea where we conducted a bottom SONAR survey and a surface

Flanked by members of the Republic of Korea Army who served as boat crew for the USACE Forward Response Dive Team during their October underwater inspection of Pier 8 in Busan, are (from left to right) Shanon Chader of Buffalo District, team lead Todd Manny of Portland District, Kyle Tanner of Nashville District and Ed Gawarecki of Buffalo District.



Photo by Xavier Monroy of Military Sealift Command.



and below-water inspection to check the structural integrity of a pier in that southern coastal city.

This inspection was truly an international, multi-agency effort. The bottom survey was performed by Portland District specialists Allen Stewart and Lee Loomis; divers Shanon Chader and Ed Gawarecki hail from Buffalo District and diver Kyle Tanner traveled from Nashville District. Moreover, the dive team was escorted daily by a boat crew of four South Korean soldiers, while the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command and the Army's 837th Transportation Battalion provided logistical support.

The South Korea inspection, like the U.S., Japan and Italy missions, is part of the Army's Installation Management Command's-Transportation Infrastructure Inspection Program. In all, there are 15 Army installations with waterfront



Members of the USACE Forward Response Dive Team deployed last September to Naha Military Port, Okinawa Japan, as part of a bottom survey and pier inspection. (From left to right) Steve England of Philadelphia District, Andrew Rapp and Derrick Dunn of San Francisco District and Adam Hamm of Buffalo District.

facilities requiring inspection at least once every four years.

"I have been amazed by the Forward Response and Dive Team's persistence to get the job done," said Kevin Haskins, TIIP manager, who is from the dive safety office at ERDC. "All inspections have been completed on time and well under budget. In the first OCONUS inspection alone, Rick and his team saved my program one third of the inspection's estimated cost. Each OCONUS effort has many unknowns and Rick has not only realistically anticipated these in the planning phase, he has done an outstanding job mitigating new issues quickly and effectively."

Some of those unknowns became apparent during the team's first mission to Akizuki, Hiro and Kure, Japan. Two of our members were unable to deploy at the

last minute, but Manny and I executed our contingency plan and our team successfully and safely completed a 24-day, 15-dive mission.

A contingency plan would again be needed in early November when I, while leading a team to inspect a pier at Camp Darby in Livorno, Italy, was diverted en-route and assigned to assist the USACE and FEMA recovery effort required in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

With Blackberry in hand, I called Dan Meyers from Honolulu District, with the news that he was now team lead as well as dive supervisor.

Go figure ... a funny thing happened on my way to Italy ... I ended up in Trenton, N.J!

It all worked out for the best, however. The team did great and I was very proud to be a part of the Corps' recovery team and its effort. I guess I'll just have to wait for my chance to meet the Pope – but maybe I'll see Snookie while in New Jersey! 🇺🇸



Photos by Rick Benoit

Dive Tender Gerardo Velazquez and standby diver John Winkleman attend diver Adam Hamm (right) prior to beginning an inspection dive at Tombolo Dock, USAG Camp Darby, Livorno, Italy.



# A fish researcher's findings at The Dalles Lock and Dam

By Bob Cordie  
The Dalles Lock and Dam

**A**lmost everyone knows that fish research is a part of what happens around Portland District's Columbia River dams – and at The Dalles Lock and Dam it's hard to miss the trailers, cables and research personnel on the forebay throughout most of the year.

But why is there so much activity?

Let's start with the basics. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration makes a list of requirements in a document called a Biological Opinion. In short, the Corps of Engineers must meet these requirements (also known as Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives) to save 13 specific runs of salmon and



Years of studies have shown that the spillway and sluiceway at The Dalles Lock and Dam are better fish passage routes that lead to higher survival rates.

steelhead in the Columbia River basin from extinction.

One of the requirements states that, 96 percent of the spring passage juvenile salmon and 93 percent of the summer passage juvenile salmon, must survive the trip down stream over the dam – including those within close proximity of the dam which are eaten by predators, such as gulls and pike minnow.

Years of studies have shown that these fish passage goals cannot be met by allowing too many juvenile salmon to pass through the turbines – the spillway and sluiceway are better fish passage routes that lead to higher survival.

If fish passage survival goals are met for two years, no more improvements will be required, like the \$50 million-plus spillwall the Corps constructed at The Dalles Dam.

So how well are we doing?

In 2010 we passed both spring and summer tests. In 2011 we passed the spring test, but postponed the summer assessment due to high river flows.

This year we finished and passed the summer test which means we don't need to make any more modifications at The Dalles Dam to improve juvenile fish passage.

However, new biological opinions could have new rules; or the validity of the Corps' test results could be



Corps of Engineers photos

Trailers, cables and research personnel have been a regular occurrence on the forebay at The Dalles Lock and Dam throughout ongoing studies and tests to see how well juvenile salmon are passing over the dam.

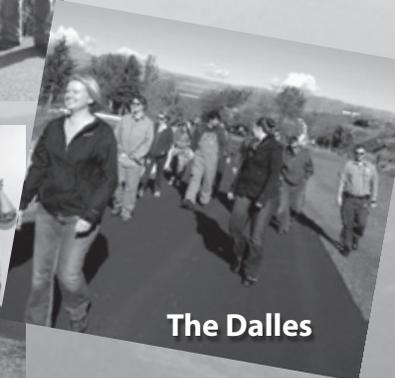
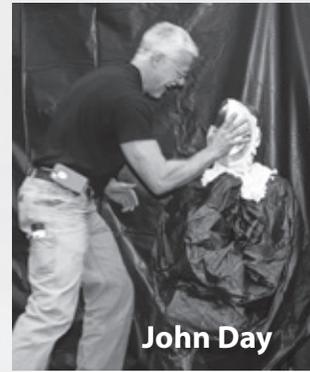
challenged by other organizations; or there could be unknown wildcards left in the deck which could impact whether more fish passage improvements will be needed in the future.

But for now, despite all the debate about what may be needed, there is no debate that the Corps has made measureable improvements in salmon survival at the dams over the years.

That's the big picture in fish passage and how it impacts how we do business at The Dalles Lock and Dam – but our research and work isn't done. There are other species of concern in the Columbia River besides salmon.

Lamprey numbers are dropping and they are very close to being listed as threatened or endangered, so don't look for the trailers, cables and fish researchers to go away anytime soon. 

# Combined Federal Campaign 2012



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Portland District





# Sharing the Corps' message

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

## WHAT TO DO WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

We all know the BIG ONE is coming. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contributes critical capabilities within the federal emergency response and recovery community in the Pacific Northwest. As experts in debris removal, mobile emergency management command, control and communications, and flood risk reduction, the Corps is always ready to provide assistance to local communities in the event of any natural or manmade disaster.

Beyond this national and regional level of preparedness, there are many key actions you can take BEFORE disaster strikes to ensure you and your loved ones are ready to withstand and quickly recover from an emergency.

- First, take care of yourself, your family and your neighbors in need, if you can. If you are not at home, ensure that you and your family have an out-of-town contact you can each reach to track one another until you reunite. Also, designate a meeting spot ensuring that everyone in the family knows where that is – such as the corner of your street, or the high school football stadium.
- Keep a pair of shoes near your bed. Always know where your car keys are. Keep a phone charger in your vehicle. Implement a personal and family preparedness plan at home, which includes a minimum three-day supply of food, water and other emergency supplies.
- Know your work status. If you are an emergency essential employee, you are expected to report to your place of duty in the event of an emergency if it is safe and feasible for you to do so. If you have a telework agreement in place, you are expected to telework if possible during an event.



## Expect higher downstream water levels during Willamette Valley flood season

From mid-November through January each year, we operate our 13 Willamette Valley dams to save lives and reduce property damage. We store incoming water during significant rain events, and then release it as river levels subside. We cannot prevent floods, but we can significantly reduce the level of floods and the damage they cause. Since 1996, our dams have provided an annual average of almost \$1 billion in flood damage reduction.

However, our Dam Safety program has found that most of our dam's spillway gates may not operate properly when water levels are high and placing significant pressure on the gates. This may result in a gate failing to open when desired, or becoming stuck in the open position when attempting to close it. This would limit or perhaps even compromise our ability to control water releases from that dam.

- We have made interim repairs of many dams' gates, and continue to pursue their long-term rehabilitation. All seven of Dexter Dam's spillway gates have been strengthened over the past two years. Strengthening of Big Cliff Dam's gates is underway this fall. The need for longer-term gate rehabilitation work remains at seven of our other dams.
- In the meantime, we have lowered the pool elevations at which spillway gates need to be opened, to reduce pressure on the gates and the potential for their failure. This in turn means the dams may need to release more water during flood events, leading to higher than usual downriver flows.
- We urge property owners and those living and working near the rivers to understand their level of risk and take preparedness actions. For virtually all emergencies, county emergency management offices are the first sources of information, the first responders, and the designated authorities for deciding upon and announcing evacuations. Counties can declare emergencies and request support from the State of Oregon. If the emergency is of sufficient magnitude, the state may request federal assistance, including Corps emergency response.

