

CORPS' PONDENT

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Portland District

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: *Jetty Safety*

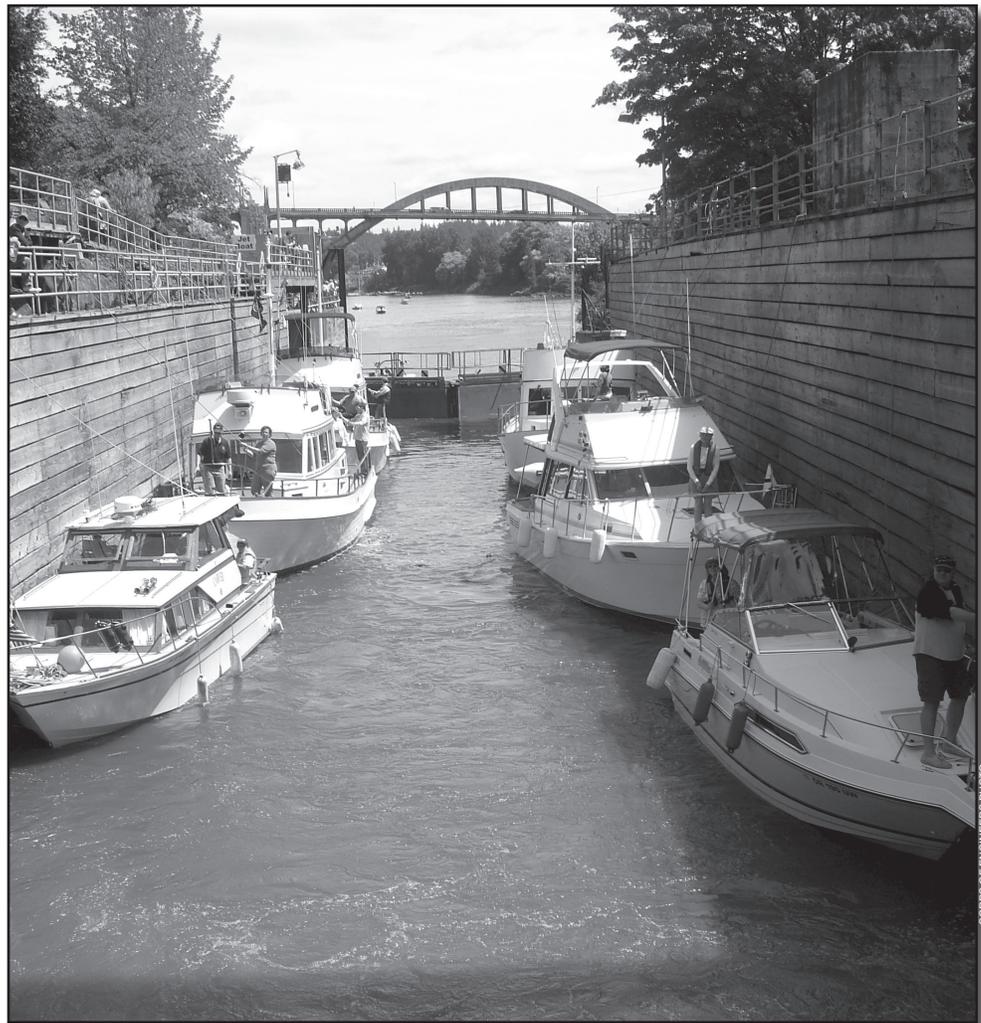
3
Passport to
recreation

6
Jetty Safety:
Being safe means
staying away



8
Youngsters talk
water safety

10
A natural path



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

The Willamette Falls Locks in West Linn, Ore., opened for the season at 7 a.m., Saturday, May 20, for the third annual Lock Fest, with 32 vessels passing through the locks. The annual celebration of the historic locks is sponsored by the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation. This year, the event featured Col. Thomas O'Donovan's participation in a signing ceremony to celebrate the collaborative agreement between the Corps of Engineers and various local, state and private-sector partners that allows for operation of the locks this year and development of a plan for future operations.



COMMANDER'S COLUMN



In light of the release of the IPET and the Corps taking responsibility, I wanted to give you a framework for how our accountability in New Orleans was reviewed. Maj. Gen. Don Riley responded to a news article in the Washington Post that makes some important points about how the Corps does business.

– Col. Thomas O'Donovan

The Washington Post article in the May 14th edition, "Par for the Corps," by Michael Grunwald, is unfortunately full of errors, undocumented claims, and misrepresentations.

Its inflammatory rhetoric exploits the suffering of the Gulf Coast by minimizing the true impact of Hurricane Katrina. While Katrina was a Category 3 storm in terms of wind speed when it made landfall on August 29, only 24 hours earlier it was the largest Category 5 storm on record in the Gulf of Mexico, generating storm surges within the Gulf at over 28 feet. Although the wind speed dropped, the surge still came, making this the largest natural disaster to ever strike the nation.

The article continues with a shotgun approach, criticizing Congress, the Administration, and State and local sponsors of water resource projects around the nation, leaving the reader wondering how one can have such widespread animosity.

From the time the effects of Hurricane Katrina were first known, Corps of Engineers leaders have consistently told the American public that the Corps is accountable for the projects it builds and administers. No one is more concerned about the levee and floodwall breaches, nor more determined to know how these breaches occurred, than the Corps. We have approached our investigations deliberately and openly, have shared all data and information widely, and have sought not the first answer, but the right answer. We are determined to ensure we are doing the right thing now and in the future as we repair and rebuild these structures.

The Chief of Engineers has commissioned an Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) consisting of approximately 150 engineers, scientists and other experts from government, academia, and industry across the nation and world to investigate the hurricane protection system performance during Katrina. IPET's analysis has been thorough and upon completion of review by the American Society of Engineers and the National Academy of Sciences will guide the Corps' ongoing and future work in New Orleans, as well as ad-

vance the practice of civil engineering for other public and private projects.

The Corps is awaiting the publication of the final IPET report to provide the conclusive, detailed analysis of the hurricane protection system's performance during Katrina. The analysis to date has demonstrated that much of the early speculation about the performance of the system was wrong and there is still much to be learned.

Regrettably, "Par for the Corps" is a rehash of personal opinions about past events without considering steps undertaken by the Corps in recent years to continuously improve, and to ensure all projects are accomplished in conformity with the highest standards. The Corps has strengthened its analytical capabilities and ensures all projects undergo extensive analysis and multiple reviews before forwarding its recommendations to the Administration and Congress. We have enhanced training in project planning, emphasized senior leadership review, and updated planning guidance to better balance environmental and social needs with economic justification. We also subject large, complex, and potentially controversial project proposals to review by outside experts to better inform federal decision making.

The Corps doesn't have the choice to sit on the sidelines and criticize others; we are committed to action on behalf of the citizens of the Gulf Coast and the Nation. Our work is important, difficult, and sensitive. As such, we understand that many of our actions are subject to intense scrutiny.

We welcome constructive criticism and recognize the best decisions are the product of full and open debate. Although some critics refuse, we ask all of them to join us in providing balanced water resource solutions for our fellow citizens. And we thank all those who participate productively. – *Maj. Gen. Don Riley, Director of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

CORPS'PONDENT



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Portland District

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PASSPORT TO RECREATION



As the weather continues to improve, national parks and other recreation areas become increasingly popular places to visit. While you won't need to obtain a passport to visit these areas, you may not know that there are special types of passports available to make visiting recreation sites more easy and affordable for some.

PASSPORT

The **Washington and Oregon Recreation Pass** is an add-on to the **Golden Eagle Passport**. The total annual cost is \$85; \$65 for the Golden Eagle Passport and \$20 for the state recreation pass add-on.

The Washington State Parks Commission eliminated day parking fees at all Washington state parks April 1, but the state pass still covers facility use fees for watercraft launch and trailer/septic dump fees at many of Washington's state parks. The combination Golden Eagle/Washington and Oregon Recreation Pass is also valid for day-use fees at all Oregon and Washington state parks, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recreation sites.

The pass admits the cardholder and any accompanying passengers. At sites that charge fees per person, the pass admits the cardholder, spouse, children and parents. For more details, go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits/>.

PASSPORT

Additionally, two special requirement passports are available for specific groups of people.

The **Golden Age Passport** grants a lifetime admission and discount pass for citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are age 62 or older. The **Golden Access Passport** is a free, lifetime admission pass issued to U.S. citizens or persons who permanently reside in the United States, who have a medical determination and documentation of blindness or permanent disability, regardless of age.

Both passports admit the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle into parks that charge a per vehicle entrance fee. Where a per person entrance fee is charged, the Golden Age Passport admits the pass owner, their spouse and their children. The Golden Access Passport admits the pass owner, spouse, children and parents. The Golden Access Passport also entitles other persons accompanying the owner, such as a care assistant, to free entrance into parks.

In addition to free entrance to all parks and recreation areas, both Golden Age and Golden Access passports also provide a 50 percent discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where use fees are charged, only the pass owner will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The passports are nontransferable and do not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.

Both passes are valid at all Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Tennessee Valley Authority sites that charge admission fees.

The Golden Age and Golden Access passports must be obtained in person at a federal area that charges an entrance fee, such as a National Park or Wildlife Refuge. Golden Age Passports cost \$10 and you must show proof of age and residency, such as a state driver's license, birth certificate or similar document.

Golden Access Passports are free, but documentation of permanent disability and proof of residency must be shown.

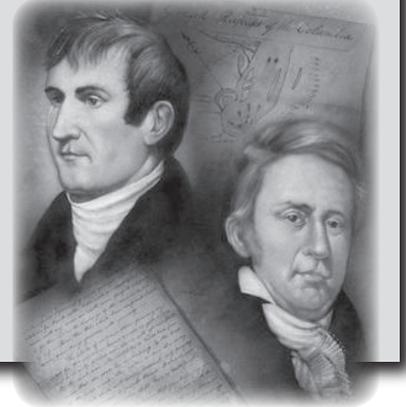
If you are 62 years old or older, or you have a documented permanent disability, take advantage of these passports and visit the recreation areas of the United States. 





June 1806:

Crossing the last mountains back toward home



By Melissa Rinehart
Operations Division



The wonder and the challenges of the Bitterroots loomed over the Corps of Discovery as they departed Weippe Prairie in early June 1806. They would have to return to the prairie for a short time due to excessive snow and limited game. With the aide of the Nez Perce tribe and the ever-constant drive to return home, the expedition braved the Bitterroot Mountains and reached Traveler’s Rest by the end of the month. They even found time for games and races with the tribe – just what was needed to lift their spirits and get them in shape for the journey ahead.

June 1806 began with concerns about limited food, the uncertainty of guides to help cross the snowy mountains and the fate of Sgt. Ordway’s party, which had been gone for five days. Ordway had been sent to the Snake River tribes to buy salmon, but rather than being a half day away, the fish was more than 70 miles from the explorers’ camp.

The captains had been told that the snow was too high and they would have to wait at least another 12 to 14 days before they could attempt a crossing. Chief Broken Arm also told the captains that

the tribe would decide whether to provide several warriors as guides only after his village left to gather camas and arrived at Lawyer River. During this forced stop, Lewis continued to collect plant and animal specimens that were new to him. On June 6, “we met with a beautiful little bird in this neighborhood about the size and somewhat the shape of the large sparrow, and is formed much like the Virginia nightingale,” Lewis wrote. This was the first description of the Western Tanager.

The captains encouraged the men to hold races and games with the visiting Nez Perce. During a foot race, they found that one of the tribal members was as fast as Drouillard and Field – the Corps’ fastest runners. They also played “prison base” - a boy’s game in which each side tried to make prisoners of the members from the opposing team who leave their base area.

By the middle of the month everyone was anxious to make their way over the mountains. Each member rode a horse and led a second one carrying supplies. On June 16, they camped at the familiar Hungry Creek camp, where they stayed on the





CORPS OF DISCOVERY



Camassia quamash (Pursh), Collected by Lewis at Weippe Prairie, in present-day Idaho, June 23, 1806. Herbarium sheet.

While admitting that Lewis was “no regular botanist,” Jefferson did praise “his talent for observation.” And on June 11, 1806, during an extended stay with the Nez Perce people, Lewis showed that talent. Camas, sometimes known as quamash, was an important food plant for the Nez Perce. Lewis carefully described the plant’s natural environment, its physical structure, the ways women harvested and prepared camas, and its role in the Indian diet. Some days later Lewis gathered samples of camas for his growing collection of western plants.

outward journey on Sept. 18. They set out early the next day, only to find 12 to 15 feet of snow – even on the south slopes. The captains felt certain that without guides they would be lost, so all dejectedly returned to their camp.

The next two days were plagued with mishaps. It took hours to collect all the horses the next morning; Potts cut his leg, severed a vein and required a tourniquet; Colter and his horse tumbled downstream while crossing Hungry Creek and lost his gun; Shield and LePage were sent out to find their horses and returned empty-handed; Lewis’ and Clark’s horses and mule ran away towards Weippe Prairie; there wasn’t enough game and all the salt they had with them was gone. Exasperated, Lewis and Clark decided to return to Weippe Prairie and wait for Drouillard and Shannon to return with the anticipated Nez Perce guides.

Thankfully, two Nez Perce arrived, who were possibly willing to act as guides, and they brought with them the two missing horses. Two days later, three well respected tribal members ready to act as guides across

the mountains returned with Drouillard and Shannon. The group set out and found the snow had melted considerably, providing enough grass for the horses and game. They were even thankful for the remaining snow on the slopes, since it covered the downed trees and shrubs that would otherwise have impeded their progress.

Their hard trek paid off when they made camp at Lolo Hot Springs on June 29. Everyone enjoyed a soak in the hot waters, an icy plunge into the creek and back again into the hot springs. By June 30 they arrived at Travelers’ Rest and began making preparations to divide into two parties: one would travel with Lewis heading north to explore the Marias River; and the other would travel with Clark toward the Yellowstone River.

As the explorers began seeing familiar landmarks from their outbound journey, they must have started believing they really were heading back toward family and loved ones. Their exciting adventure was coming to a close, but dangers still awaited them in the final months of their journey that could threaten the entire endeavor. 



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

Being safe means staying away

By Mike McAleer, Public Affairs Office

Jetties are amazing structures to behold for their size and construction, but they are not safe for beach combers, fishermen and curious rock climbers. Jetties have been attracting people for more than 100 years along the Oregon Coast, much like a moth is drawn to light. Every year there are numerous accidents, injuries and sometimes deaths associated with unsafe recreational activities on jetties.

The Portland District manages more than 24 jetties and breakwaters along the entire length of the Oregon Coast, from the north shore of the Columbia River near Cape Disappointment, Wash., south to Brookings, Ore. Most structures are made of rock and gravel, though some include solid concrete. The structures were constructed between the mid-1880s and 1970s as a means to make passage between coastal harbors and the Pacific Ocean safer.

Basically, a jetty extends the mouth of a river further out into the sea, concentrating and accelerating water flow, scouring out sand and debris, making it less likely vessels will flounder on sand bars.

Corps-managed jetties are clearly marked and warn curious visitors that jetties are not intended for recreation; if you do venture out onto a jetty, you do so at your own risk. Dangers include:

- ▶ Open crevasses between large boulders that create stepping hazards.
- ▶ Sinkholes, caused by drifting sand pushed up against the jetty being eroded by moving water inside the structure, can give way unexpectedly.

- ▶ Caverns within the structure, caused by the eroding of stones and sand, could be hidden below a thin surface and suddenly collapse.
- ▶ Sudden larger waves, even in calm weather, can knock a person off balance or into the water.
- ▶ Waves and strong currents near the jetty can prevent safe recovery after a fall into the water.
- ▶ Once in the water, hypothermia is a real possibility with the cold waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Rod Moritz, a hydraulic engineer with Portland District's Coastal and River Engineering section, has a wealth of knowledge about the dangers surrounding jetties and the hidden and not-so-obvious dangers that can get the casual recreationist into trouble around a jetty. Sound advice to anyone visiting a jetty can be summed up by simply planning a safe visit, Moritz said. "Know your surroundings before venturing close to the shore's edge. Know what the tide is doing while you visit the seacoast and observe the wave action where you are before venturing close to the water's edge" Moritz said. "And never turn your back on the sea."

Footing along rocky coasts and coastal structures like jetties is very unreliable. The rocks used in building a jetty are irregularly shaped and continually subjected to sea spray and moisture, which allows "biology" to grow on the surface of rocks, according to Moritz. Walking out on a jetty is opening the door for more than a slip and a fall. The problems can easily be compounded into very serious injury. You





View jetties from a distance. Climbing on, fishing from, or jumping off a jetty can provide an unhappy ending to a fun day at the beach.

could slip, fall, hit your head, become unconscious, fall into the water, possibly become hypothermic, and even die.

Sneaker waves are another real threat, not just on jetties, but also along the shore line. Ocean waves tend to travel in groups or sets. According to Moritz, each wave set can have up to 15 waves traveling in a group, with the wave group lasting between one and four minutes.

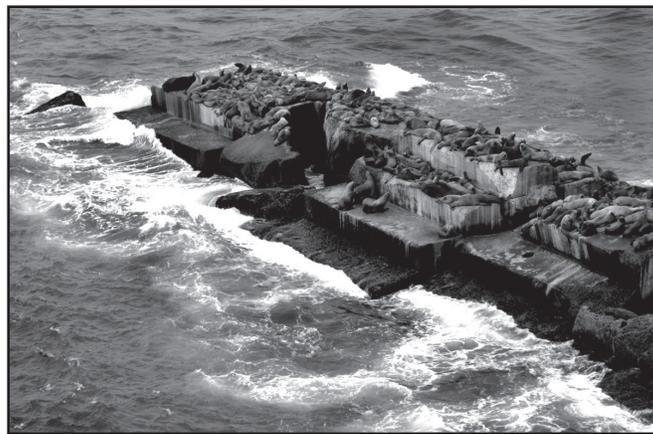
When a group of larger waves encounters the seacoast, the water level along the shore's edge can rise by one to four feet, for a period of 30 seconds to two minutes. "It's like a mini-tide," Moritz said. "When the water level is raised, individual waves can ride further into shore, or up onto a rocky surface to sweep an unsuspecting beach comber into the ocean." Warning: Sneaker waves can occur anytime on the coast of the Pacific Northwest, but are prevalent when storm waves are affecting the coast.

Even the smallest and calmest of waves can pack a knockout punch. "Even waves only two to four feet high can carry enough momentum to knock down an able-bodied adult, especially if the waves are breaking," Moritz said. A breaking wave can be between three and 15 times greater than a non-breaking wave.

According to Moritz, a wave is non-breaking when it travels through the water in a smooth, non-turbulent way. A breaking wave is basically falling on itself, causing much turbulence and white water – they're the ones surfers love. Average wave conditions along the Pacific Northwest coast during summer are about three feet high; the force from being hit by a non-breaking wave about that size would be about 200 pounds. For a breaking wave of the same size, the force acting on a person could be more than 900 pounds. During winter, the average wave

height in the Pacific Northwest is about 10 feet, which packs about 3,500 pounds of force on a 5-foot person. A breaking wave could exert 8,000 pounds of force. It's very hard to argue with that much force and win.

While they may seem like a good place to be, just remember: jetties should always be viewed from a distance. Climbing on, fishing from, or jumping off of a jetty can provide an unhappy ending to a fun day at the beach. 

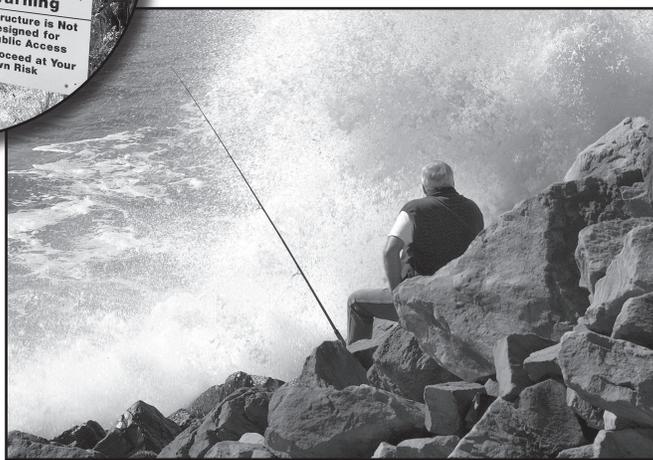


CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

Above: Sea lions may rest and play on jetties, but they are 600 pounds of muscle and blubber and are really good swimmers.



Left: The mouth of the Columbia River North Jetty, like all Corps jetty projects, clearly indicates danger.



CORPS OF ENGINEERS PHOTO

Don't let the beauty of an ocean spray be the last thing you see - stay off jetties.

FEATURE



Youngsters Talk Water Safety

One of the most important duties of a Corps of Engineers' park ranger is water safety. During the past winter months I conducted water safety programs at local elementary schools in Medford, White City and Central Point in southern Oregon. Out of curiosity, I asked school teachers to have their students write about any negative water experiences they've had during their six or seven years on the planet. I was astounded by their comments.

Although the children's unedited comments are humorous, they are serious in nature.



By Edward Amerson, Lost Creek Lake

My Water Experience

A water experience is last August 7th on my sisters birthday and we went to a swimming area and it had life guards. My sister was turning 12 and I thote that I could go on the difing board and I jumped and I didn't know how to swim and I stil don't know how to swim. Ther was life savers ther and I was bobing my hed and the life saver people didn't even do entything about it. So my Mom had to dife in and go and get me and that's my water experience. - Tamika

When I was little I didn't know how to swim I got into my pool. I held on the edge. Then I let go of the edge and I started to drown. Then my brother saved me. - Breanna Howell.

One time I fell in our pool and I was 5 and I didn't now how to swim. My dog usually walk's in the pool but he jumed in the pool and saved me. - Ayden Majo

My moms cusines got pulled in by a wave and there dad jumped after them. He got 1 kid but never found the 2nd one. When I was 3 or 4 I got in a pool without my water wings and almost dround but my mom jumped in and saved me. - Alex Craft

I've been on a boat. I wear a life jacket. I have drove a boat. I have been in a lake. Always wear a life jacket or you will drown. - Acacia Mohr

Wher a life vest on a boat. My dad almost lost his leg in a shark attack. Whon day I almost dround. - Tristan

My friend and I where digging a channel to the ocean to make a moat around our sand castle. Then we needed some wet sand and we where almost done with the channel. So my friend went to get some. next time I looked back she was standing right in front of the breakers! And something worse I saw a jelly fish in the wave right in front of her! I yelled her name and she lucly came running back just in time. So we got our wet sand and got to the very end of the channel so we were all finished and sat down to look at our castle. The tide



was out and coming in fast, then we layed down and the rushing ocean stated pulling us out but we luckily were at a patch of hard sand and were able to maintain a grip. It was realy scary. - Kayla Stone

Once my brother omost drowned from going to the midel of the oshen and a wave omost took him over. - Kyle Shirey

I fell in a pool and my mom saved me. Then she lost her phone because it fell at the bottom. Another time my sister almost drown too. - Myleah Metcalf

My friend Mychelle got her babysitter and got me out befor I went under the water. When my mom came over to my friend Mychelle's house to pick me up she saw that I was all wet from head to toe. After a while my friend died by getting pushed off the San Francisco bay. I miss my friend Mychelle. - Ashley

One time my grandma, grandpa had a pool and my little brother jumped in and was dronding my mom had to jump in and pull him out of the pool. When my mom pulled him out he was crying becease he was so scared. But now he loves the water. - Brady

One day I went swimming I was 5 feet away from shore. But just as I was starting to swim I almost dround. I was scared. I'm lucky to survive and live. - Tehya

Isaw someone drown in the water. Some boats came and helped him get out of the water. And brot him back to his family. In the somer I get wet in my poel. I jump frum my trapolin in to the poel and my mom makes lemonade. - David



The Corps of Engineers' Water Safety Program can help save lives. According to Coast Guard statistics, between 1995-1998, 105 children under age 13 died in the water, 66 of them by drowning. Water safety must begin at an early age. Those who are involved in water safety programs should be proud of what they do—saving lives. 

Water Safety Tips

Even though the weather is warm, the water may still be cold. If you fall into cold water:

- ◆ Don't panic, try to hold onto something that floats.
- ◆ Don't discard clothing – it insulates!
- ◆ Conserve heat - assume the H.E.L.P. position (Heat Escape Lessening Posture – life jacket on, knees tight to the chest, cross your arms and tuck hands under armpits).
- ◆ Get out of the water as soon as possible!

Hypothermia is the lowering of the body's core temperature. While skin and tissues cool rapidly in cold water, it generally takes 15-20 minutes for the temperature of your internal organs to drop.

Symptoms of hypothermia include:

- ◆ Shivering vigorously
- ◆ Lips turning blue
- ◆ Numbness, clumsiness, and loss of dexterity
- ◆ Pain from the cold

First aid for hypothermia includes:

- ◆ Warming the victim – apply blankets or warm objects
- ◆ Monitoring their breathing and pulse – administer CPR or artificial respiration if necessary
- ◆ Getting medical assistance

Use common sense – have a safe swim!

- ◆ Never rely on toys such as inner tubes and water wings to stay afloat
- ◆ Don't take chances by over-estimating your swimming skills
- ◆ Swim only in designated swimming areas
- ◆ Never swim alone

Each year about 200 children drown and several thousand others are treated in hospitals for submersion accidents that leave children with permanent brain damage and respiratory health problems. Remember, it only takes a few seconds for a small child to wander away. Be safe and smart this summer; watch your children at all times!





A natural path

By Jennifer Sowell, Public Affairs Office

Eugene Goff has an energy and enthusiasm that is contagious. Whether he's discussing the importance of water safety or the beauty of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' recreation lands, Goff speaks in an animated, energetic and sincerely enthused manner. Combine this passion with a genuine love of the outdoors and an ability to relate to just about anyone, and you have what it takes to be a park ranger, a position Goff has held for close to 30 years, but one he had been preparing for from an early age.

"This is something I wanted to do from the beginning, as a youngster, after visiting Yellowstone National Park one summer," Goff said.

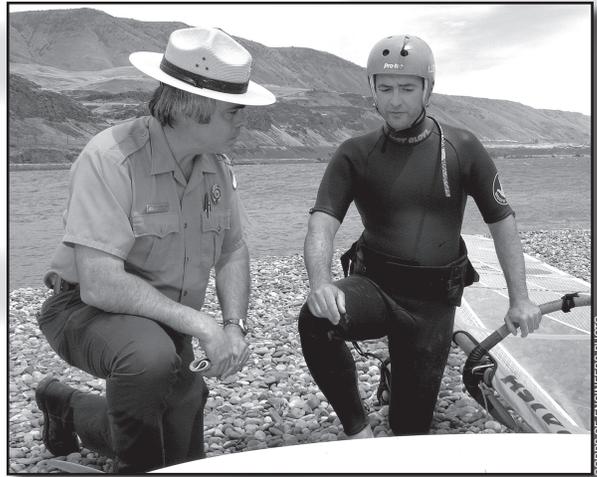
A child's dream job may be easily dismissed, but as a high school senior, when asked about his career plans, Goff answered with the same decisiveness: he wanted to be a park ranger.

Goff's love for the outdoors comes naturally, as most of his weekends growing up were spent camping, fishing and hunting with his family. His enthusiasm for his job comes from the active lifestyle he had growing up. Goff's family was always on the move, seeking different travels to better understand their surroundings.

"Whether it was sporting events or just a drive, we were on the move to learn," said Goff. "I have always enjoyed a journey and always sought to obtain life skills on each one."

Goff's journey to his current position with The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek project was spent in a bit of a ping pong match between Kansas and Oklahoma, not far from his hometown of Council Grove, Kan. Similar to the family trips of his youth, Goff's ascension through the park ranger program allowed him to spend a lot of time outdoors and learn some essential lessons along the way.

He started with the Corps in the late 1970s, working the midnight shift for three summers as a park technician at Elk City and Council Grove lakes in



Eugene Goff talks water safety with a windsurfer. One of Goff's favorite roles as a park ranger is interacting with people and spreading the water safety message to those who recreate at Corps lakes.

Kansas. He began his first full-time park ranger position in 1980 at Birch and Candy lakes in Oklahoma.

Goff continued working as a park ranger at Fall River and Toronto lakes in Kansas until early 1983, when he was accepted into the Tulsa District park ranger training program, when he worked at lakes in Kansas and Oklahoma.

The opportunity exposed Goff to several diversified lake settings, where he gained a better understanding of the Corps' missions and learned about leadership.

After the park ranger training program, Goff returned back to Kansas to work at Elk City and Big Hill lakes, where he stayed for 15 years.

"These early experiences as a Corps of Engineers park ranger taught me that change is a constant and one has to be prepared to adjust to variable life challenges that come to us each and every day," Goff said.

Working at a variety of projects, Goff was exposed to many different types of people, which taught him the benefits of flexibility.

"Depending on which shoes someone is wearing, their perspective has to be respected," Goff said. "We have to be flexible enough to enjoy life's opportunities and see the positive side of situations."

Goff got a different perspective with his first taste of the Pacific Northwest when he was selected for a 90-day developmental assignment with Lynda Nutt and the Corps' National Water Safety Team in the Walla Walla District office from November 1999 through January 2000.

During this time he initiated a web-based ordering and delivery system for all Corps field offices to use when ordering water safety educational materials, and worked to increase national awareness and promote water safety strategies to help prevent vessel accidents on navigation waterways. He also reviewed and helped finalize a Corps educational video and two coloring/activity books that are used by park rangers across the country.

After three months with the Walla Walla District, Goff headed back to Oklahoma for a supervisory park ranger position at Lake Eufaula.

During this time, Goff also was the assistant chair of the Tulsa District Water Safety Committee, participated in the Emerging Leaders Program, and worked with the National Water Safety Committee and the National Safe Boating Council.

Goff held the supervisory position at Lake Eufaula for a little more than a year before deciding to head back west for his current position as lead park ranger at Portland District's The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project, in September 2001.

According to Goff, the best part of the job comes from interacting with the people he meets in the field.

"I enjoy promoting environmental and safety awareness to those who visit our public lands," Goff said. "I appreciate seeing the families have fun and safe outings at Corps parks."

To Goff, hearing from others that the Corps is providing a needed service to the public is akin to receiving a personal compliment. "Having someone say that they are proud of what the Corps of Engineers has done locally, regionally and nationally to serve the public is the type of comment that far exceeds a monetary bonus to me," he said.

Sometimes the job gets serious, like when rangers must deal with a drowning fatality within a public use area.

"When you respond to a drowning call as a park ranger, it is a tough one," Goff said. "Those types of calls serve to reinforce my focus on promoting the simple theme, to always wear your life jacket while enjoying recreation on the water."

Promoting water safety is a large part of Goff's job, not only as a park ranger, but as an active member of the National Water Safety Team. The national team develops water safety products and promotes water safety throughout the Corps.

As a park ranger, Goff handles a variety of tasks, which include: ensuring that Corps parks have acceptable facilities for public use, such as boat launch ramps and campsites; working with hunter education programs; the water safety program; visitor center upgrades and interpretive

programs; working with fish and wildlife enhancement projects, tree and grass plantings, containment of invasive plant species, and overseeing share-crop agreements and grazing leases.

Goff's latest achievement was landing one of two Corps positions for a 5-month developmental assignment at Corps headquarters. The assignment begins in June and promises to give Goff yet another perspective on the Corps. He will be working with the Natural Resources Management Communities of Practice, which is responsible for providing policy and guidance on management of recreation, natural and cultural resources, and environmental compliance at water resource development projects throughout the Corps.

When he's not working, Goff enjoys traveling to the ocean and the mountains, swimming, teaching water and boating safety classes, public speaking, fly fishing and volunteering with community programs.

If his leisure time sounds a bit like his time spent at work, it should, because it comes that naturally to him.

"Throughout my adventures as a park ranger, I have been able to be both out front and behind the curtains," Goff said. "Providing water and boating safety education, giving tours, supporting environmental and wildlife awareness and education, and promoting the Corps' missions and messages to park visitors is all I could ask for in a job."

It's so rare to have the job you've wanted all your life and to have had it for nearly as long. Goff's path led him to that exceptional place naturally.

"I truly enjoy carrying the torch for our agency and sharing the messages of all the Corps missions in promoting a strong nation," Goff said. 



The Corps' National Operations Center for Water Safety presented a program April 19 and 20 at the Pentagon. The event shared important water safety information and showcased the Corps' program. Activities included a staffed water safety display, water safety products and handouts, a presentation of the various water safety programs and appearances by Corps characters, Seamoor Safety and Buddy Beaver.



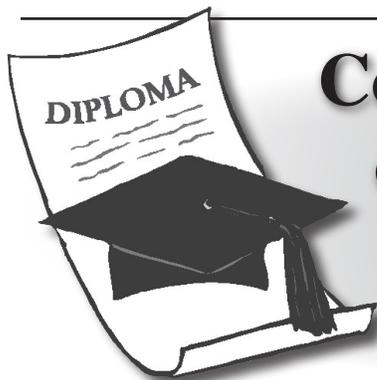


231st Army Birthday

June 14, 2006

Flag Day

June 14, 2006



**Coming up in the next issue
of the *Corps'pondent*:
GRADUATION
ANNOUNCEMENTS**