



CORPS' PONDENT



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Portland District

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CFC makes giving easier for everyone

- 4 Danger - UXB: Portland, Seattle districts seek lost munitions
- 6 CFC makes giving easier for everyone
- 8 Portland District pioneers use of military divers
- 10 Portland District employee lives the CFC spirit
- 12 Wheel of Salmon Survival helps Corps tell story

Coming up in the next issue of the Corps' pondent:

Cascade Readiness



Combined Federal Campaign Pancake Breakfast





After having a sunny and unusually dry summer, the Portland District is preparing for another flood season. The National Weather Service also is predicting a drier winter than usual, but folks at the Reservoir Control Center and the Reservoir Regulation and Water Quality Section won't be taking any chances. River and reservoir levels are closely monitored so we can react if Old Man Winter brings the rains in spite of the seasonal predictions.

To make sure we're ready, we schedule flood preparedness training for sector engineers and other first responders each November.

November also means time of remembrance. On Veterans Day we remember those who sacrificed even their very lives, throughout the



Col. Thomas O'Donovan

remember all veterans who have served our country, as well as those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

November is also Native American Heritage month. You will hear about Celilo Falls and The Dalles Dam – an important element in our relationship to Pacific Northwest Indians – in the coming months. March 2007 will be the 50th anniversary of the raising of the pool behind The Dalles Dam, which flooded Celilo Falls. The Corps of Engineers played a significant role in a situation that changed the landscape

of the Columbia Gorge and the lives of local Indian tribes.

While we will be looking back at our role in building the dam, we will also look forward to the \$12.5 million renovation of Celilo Village that began last month. The first step in revitalizing the village

The tradition of Veterans Day began as Armistice Day, when a moment of silence was observed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, when World War I officially ended.

history of our country. Their dedication allows us to enjoy the freedoms we cherish today. The tradition of Veterans Day began as Armistice Day, when a moment of silence was observed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, when World War I officially ended.

Although the actual observance didn't begin until 1918, the tradition of sacrifice for country began much earlier. Most of us recall the saying, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country," but how many of us remember it was a patriot named Nathan Hale who said those words just before the British hanged him as a spy? My point is that while we may not remember specific individuals, honoring their dedication and sacrifice helps make this nation great and will always be important.

With so many citizen Soldiers, Sailors, Air Force and Marines called up from the National Guard and Reserves, military service touches all of our lives. I submit there are very few of us in the Portland District who cannot name a close friend or family member with a loved one serving (or returned from serving) his or her country. Please take a moment on this Veterans Day to

was constructing a new longhouse that embodied the spirit of the traditional structure it replaced; the second step began in October when construction began on a new sewer and water system. We realize there is no way to replace Celilo Falls. We can, however, continue with the Corps' commitment, begun by Lt. Gen. Strock when he was Northwestern Division

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Commander, to replace buildings and infrastructure in need of attention. We are working with tribal representatives from the Umatilla, Nez Perce, Warm Springs and Yakama tribes and from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to redevelop a community with a rich heritage.

Finally, members of the Corporate Team and I attended the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association annual meeting in Tacoma, Wash., last month. Because so much of our mission is to safeguard the nation's waterways, this conference offers us a chance to meet with the people we support. It's especially gratifying to get feedback from waterways users about how helpful, knowledgeable

and supportive Portland District folks are about their concerns. We can't always tell them what they want to hear, but they know we will tell them the truth. I'm proud of this reputation and how each of you helps to maintain it.

It's only with a firm commitment – by each of us as well as by the organization as a whole – that we can maintain that reputation. There is much going on in our District to be proud of and I thank you for all the great things we're accomplishing. Be safe this winter, keep up that level of dedication and enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday.

Essayons!



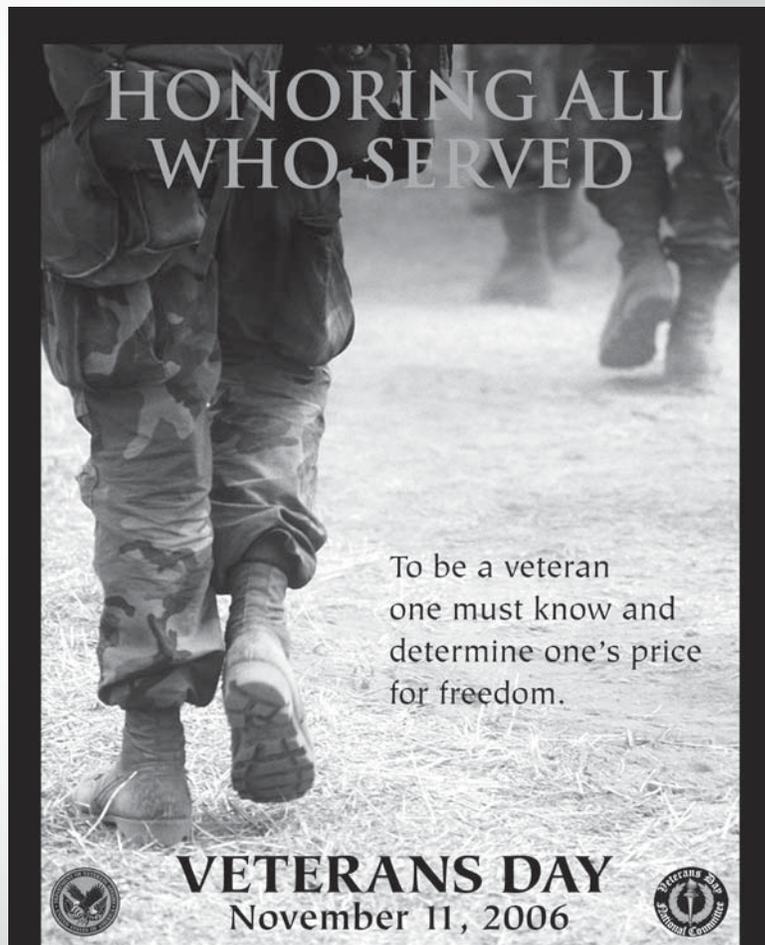
REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS



Army Air Corps veteran Paul Perlongo holds a folded American flag to represent the heroes killed preserving America's freedom in past and current wars during the Chicago Memorial Day parade in Chicago, Ill., on May 27, 2006.



World War II veterans salute during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the allied Victory in Europe in World War II. Nearly 100 veterans of the conflict attended the event. May 9, 2005



DoD Photos



DANGER – UXB: Portland, Seattle districts seek lost munitions

By Mike McAleer, Public Affairs Office

When one thinks about Oregon, large military bases don't usually come to mind. When one thinks about Portland District, military projects aren't at the top of the list since Portland is a civil works district. Think again!

During World War II, Oregon was a hub of military activity, when camps and other training facilities popped up around the state. More than 60 years later, the Corps is taking a look at those Formerly Used Defense Sites to determine if there are any hazards to humans or the environment left over from the training activities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been evaluating sites that were historically used for military training in Oregon since the late 1980s, when the FUDS program was established. The Corps is looking at four FUDS sites in Oregon: Camp Adair, near Corvallis, Camp Abbot, near Sunriver, the Central Oregon Gunnery Range near Burns and Boardman Bombing Range, near Boardman.

Bill Graney and Mike Nelson, with the Seattle District Environmental Management Branch, are the project managers for the Military Munitions Response Program Site Inspection activities at these FUDS. The Seattle District requested public affairs support from Portland District for two FUDS projects in Oregon. "I think having an Oregon connection for Oregon projects just makes good sense," Graney said.

In 2002, Congress required the Department of Defense to create an inventory of military sites suspected of, or known to, contain munitions. The list includes more than 3,300 sites.

The Corps of Engineers is responsible for cleaning up sites contaminated by ordinance and munitions. The inspection program will determine what work the Corps may do to clean up possible leftover munitions, Graney said. All work is completed in compliance with federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations. "We have a duty and responsibility to make sure these FUDS sites are safe for the public and the environment," he said.

The inspections are being done by a Corps contractor, Shaw Environmental, and include a visual inspection of property that was part of the former military facilities, as well as soil and/or water sampling. "The technicians from Shaw have an extensive background in munitions," Nelson said. "While we don't expect to find much at the sites in Oregon, the public should be aware that all munitions are dangerous."

Where munitions are concerned, a good rule to follow is, 'if you didn't put it on the ground, don't pick it up.' Old munitions are very dangerous, said Dale Landon, project manager for Shaw Environmental. "If you see something suspicious, call the local law enforcement and let them respond," he said. "It is better to be safe than sorry." Landon knows of Civil



War munitions recovered from a Mississippi River bank that were still explosive after being in wet soil for more than 150 years.

The first two sites in Oregon to be inspected, Camp Adair and Camp Abbot, had colorful but short-lived histories. Camp Adair was constructed in 1942. The camp displaced residents from farms, homes and the town of Wells when it served as a training facility for several army divisions and later as a prisoner-of-war camp.

Camp Abbot was also constructed in 1942 and served as a combat engineer training facility. Up to 10,000 men at a time trained at the camp, and in the 14 months of its operation, 90,000 men proceeded under the famed castle entrance. By June 1944, the camp was abandoned and most of the settlement

razed. The only remaining evidence of the camp is the Great Hall that served as an officers club and today is a meeting facility for the Sunriver Resort.

Site inspections are complete at Camp Adair and Camp Abbot, and the contractor expects to submit its reported findings to the Corps shortly. The Corps will then present the findings to the communities and stakeholders surrounding the former camps. In the coming months the sites near Boardman and Sunriver will receive similar attention.

Although the soldiers are gone and Portland District is now a civil works organization, the military tradition continues as Corps employees from Seattle and Portland districts ensure that any leftover munitions are removed from former Army bases and public safety is assured.



Camp Adair 1942



Camp Abbot field work

CAMP ADAIR

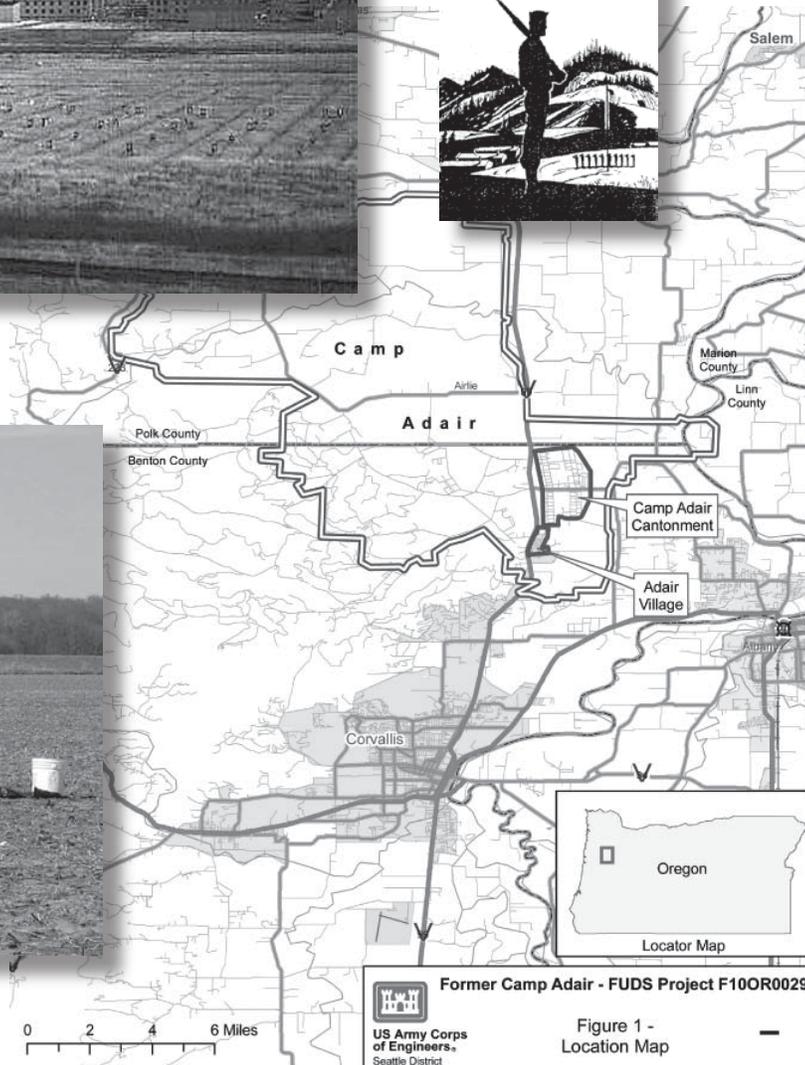


Figure 1 - Location Map



FROM THE FIELD

Corps of Engineers Photos





CFC makes giving easier for everyone

By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

After receiving their pay, soldiers in ancient Rome had to pass by vendors selling items they just couldn't live without – especially since their supervisors were doing the selling. It wasn't uncommon for half or more of a paycheck to be “donated” for items the soldiers didn't want, but to which they couldn't say no.

Before the 1950s, soliciting for charitable donations was uncontrolled – and often out of control – causing problems for employees, charities and government agencies. Not unlike the ancient Roman soldiers, federal employees were often faced with departmental quotas for giving and felt pressure from supervisors to donate.

For the past 50 years, government employees haven't had to worry about things like undue pressure to donate to charities.

In 1956 President Dwight Eisenhower asked that a comprehensive and uniform policy be designed to address charitable giving by federal workers. What emerged was a system of timeframes throughout the year when charities were offered the chance to request donations in the workplace. The charities were grouped into three categories, with each category allowed to raise funds once during the year.

The system was better, but there were still complaints about the amount of time and the expense of holding three separate fundraisers each year. In 1964, the first “Combined Federal Campaign” was held that consolidated all fundraisers into a single event. The result was that charitable giving increased by as much as 125 percent and employees and supervisors appreciated the single annual event.

Over the years, the number of charities has increased from less than 20 to more than 1,600.

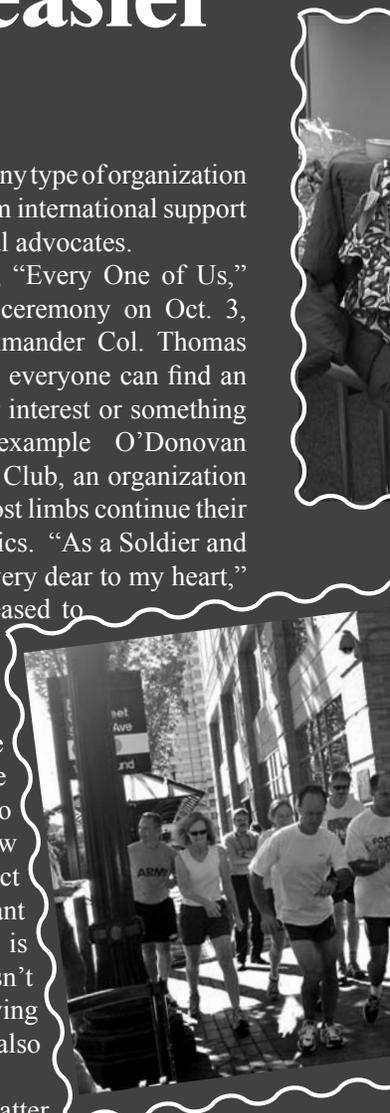
Employees can find just about any type of organization they might like to support, from international support systems to local environmental advocates.

This year's fall campaign, “Every One of Us,” kicked off with an opening ceremony on Oct. 3, where Portland District Commander Col. Thomas O'Donovan talked about how everyone can find an organization that fit his or her interest or something that is important. For example O'Donovan mentioned the Achilles Track Club, an organization that helps veterans who have lost limbs continue their running by providing prosthetics. “As a Soldier and a runner, this organization is very dear to my heart,” O'Donovan said. “I was pleased to find a charity that matches my interests so directly.”

Representatives from several charitable organizations attended the opening ceremony, and two of them gave examples of how charitable giving can affect everyone's life. An important fact for many organizations is that charitable giving doesn't necessarily mean money; giving time by volunteering is also greatly appreciated.

“Every donation, no matter how large or small, makes a difference,” said Joe Lapeyere, this year's Portland District CFC coordinator. “I thank every employee for considering a contribution to the charity of their choice.”

CFC has come a long way from the days where charity meant donating your hard-earned pay for something you didn't really want – but if you wanted to keep your job, you just couldn't live without. Thanks to those who developed a combined campaign, the life of charitable giving became much easier.





COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

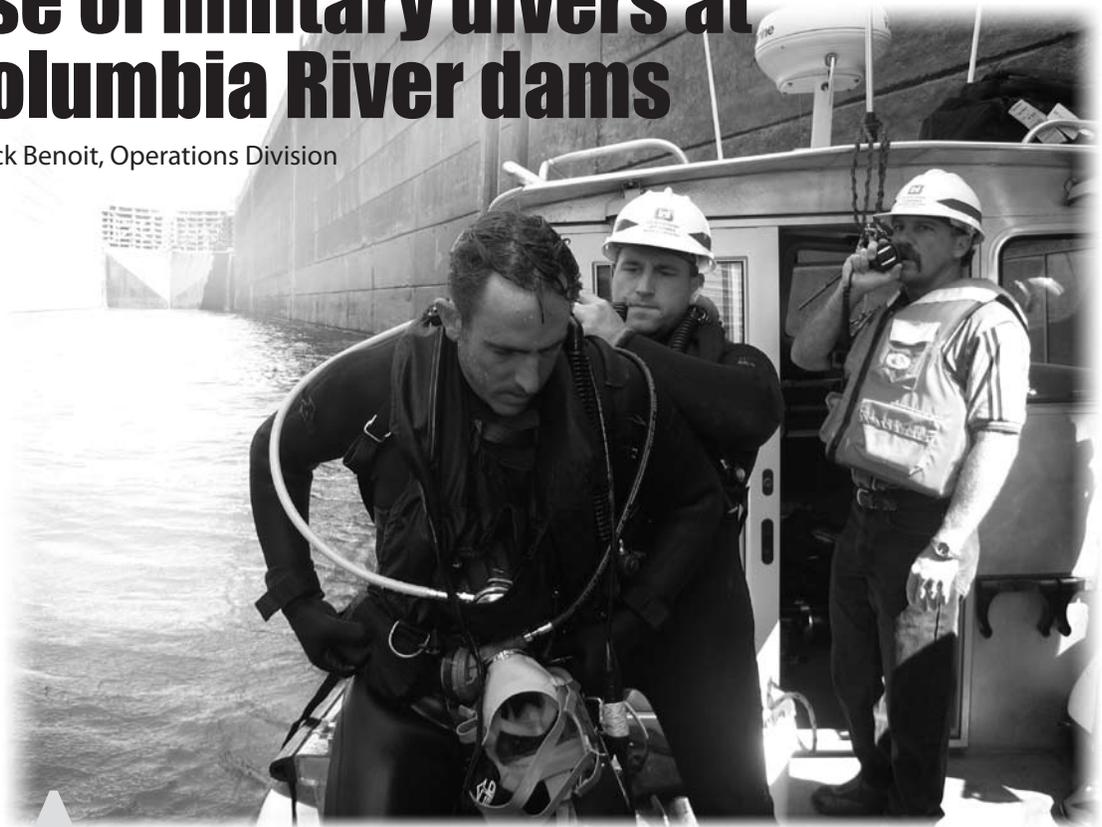


Corps of Engineers Photos



Portland District pioneers use of military divers at Columbia River dams

By Rick Benoit, Operations Division



After the canals, dams and locks were constructed, the Columbia River has provided navigation and power for more than 100 years. Building and maintaining these structures has been a mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Portland District recently added a new method of maintaining those river assets: a military dive team from the U.S. Army at Ft. Eustis, Va.

Although the Corps is part of the Army family, it took more than 90 years to use Army divers for its civil works operations at three Columbia River projects in Portland District: The Dalles, John Day and Bonneville.

Historically, commercial dive companies around the Northwest provided underwater construction, maintenance, and inspection for Portland District projects, which includes 22 dams and reservoirs, two seagoing dredging vessels and eight fish hatcheries. Early this year, however, the Army dive team successfully implemented a military training mission at The Dalles and John Day dams. The 74th Engineer Army Dive Co.

from Fort Eustis, Va., spent seven blustery days in extensive navigation lock inspections.

The dive safety team first considered using Army divers after the first Corps dive conference was hosted by Portland District in September 2005.

The Army team offers a substantial cost savings while increasing work efficiency due to their military training, said Susan Fox, deputy dive coordinator. "The daily cost for a commercial dive company is between \$5,000 and \$10,000, depending on the job," Fox said. "The military dive team, regardless of the mission averages \$1,500."

Working on Corps projects helps Army engineer divers to maintain proficiency for their war time missions, said Sgt. 1st Class Michael von Keyserling, an Army Master Diver. "The Portland District provides great training for our divers to increase their knowledge about altitude diving, waterfront facility inspections, construction and repair of dams, underwater surveys, and other missions." The training helps keep diving skills sharp and helps the team stay prepared for homeland defense measures,



he added. "It also provides a cost effective service to the Corps."

"During missions such as dam inspections for the Portland District, my soldiers can train on their mission-essential tasks and do so in a real-time environment," said Capt. Peter Inskeep, the Army dive company commander. "Everybody wins in this arrangement; the Corps gets the work completed and we get the real-world training."

"We get our work done efficiently, economically, and safely, and I like the fact that we're supporting Soldier readiness," said Col. Thomas O'Donovan, Portland District Commander. "It's doesn't get any better than that."

"The divers were extremely professional; their preparations were thorough and left nothing to chance," said Fox. "We were very pleased."

The Corps' use of military divers at its hydroelectric dams, navigation locks and fishways is not limited to Portland District. "We have worked with other Corps districts on inspection and rehabilitation missions and deployed to such diverse environments as Iraq and Alaska," said Inskeep.

The Army Dive Team will return for a month-long deployment in March 2007 to again conduct inspections at Portland District projects, helping the Corps maintain the locks and dams that keep transportation flowing along the Columbia River.



A military dive team from Ft Eustis, Va. runs maintenance exercises at Portland District Dams. Working on Corps projects also helps Army engineer divers to maintain proficiency for their wartime missions.



Corps of Engineers Photos





Portland District employee lives the CFC spirit

By Jennifer Sowell, Public Affairs Office

Time. We never seem to have enough. With all the chores, tasks and errands to do once the work day is over, most people are lucky to get any quality time alone or with family, let alone volunteer their time.

Pat Ford isn't like most people. In the Portland District she is an automation clerk for the Information Management Office, where she handles travel orders, training, timekeeping, correspondence, filing and supplies. She also sits at the front desk, where, as she puts it, "I am always ready to help anyone who needs my assistance."

Nothing could be truer, especially of Ford's volunteer work outside the Corps. Ford is involved in many volunteer efforts, including Sisters of the Road, an organization that feeds the homeless in downtown Portland; Project Clean Slate, which helps to clear criminal and traffic records of individuals through community service; and she is a board member for Oregon Action, a statewide, grassroots organization that helps with community affairs. If that wasn't enough, Ford has held weekly meetings for troubled women in her home since 1993.

Ford learned the gift of helping others at a young age by her grandmother. "I used to love to go with her when she would help the helpless and give of what she had," said Ford.

Ford's volunteer association with yet another organization has been longer and taken her farther than any other. Freedom in the Son is a prison ministries group that reaches out to women in Oregon's prisons.

Ford began volunteering with FITS in 1991. She visits the Wilsonville prison at least twice a week and teaches women there how to stay out of trouble after they re-enter society. Once they are released, Ford helps the women get off of and stay clean from drugs and alcohol, assists them in getting their children back and helps them find basic necessities, like housing and employment.



Pat Ford hold a baby resident of the New Life orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya.

Ford recently traveled to Kenya with FITS to reach out to imprisoned women and orphaned children there. Many inmates have the AIDS virus and, as a result, have been ostracized from their communities. Ford visited Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu, three of the largest cities in Kenya, where she and her colleagues brought 18 extra pieces of luggage packed with items for the women, including clothing, shoes, toiletries, school supplies and quilts that had been handmade by women in Oregon prisons.

"The women prisoners here in Oregon look forward to making quilts each year for their pen pals," said Ford. "Doing for others makes them feel needed and allows them to give to someone else."

"We met some of the pen pals," said Ford. "They shared with us how much it meant to have visitors from across the world."

"I spoke to the women about hope and life being different when they returned to their society, even after being ostracized from their communities," Ford said. "I just encouraged them to not give up on themselves."

After visiting with women inmates, FITS went on to visit the Maasai and Mudete tribes, to gain insight into the many aspects of Kenyan life.

"While visiting the tribes we mostly allowed them to teach us their way of life, such as showing us the huts the women build and the herds of animals that are so vital to their existence," said Ford.

From what Ford saw, the women do most of the work. They build the huts, care for the animals, feed the men and make clothing and jewelry.

"In all, it seemed as if the village couldn't survive without the women," said Ford. "They are depended on for most things."

“It amazed me that they all live with no running water or electricity. They care for animals and crops, which supply their basic needs, and are not at all interested in the things we consider necessary,” said Ford.

Orphanages are the most in need of FITS’ help, Ford said. Children in the orphanages range in age from infants to 18 years. The babies are very well cared for, mainly by the older children who also live there.

“Despite all they had been through, I saw lots of joy in the faces of those children,” said Ford. “The hugs I gave seemed to mean so much.” The children attend school in the orphanages until they are 13 and then they try to find someone to sponsor them to attend high school.

When those in charge of the orphanages were asked what kind of help they could most use, the overwhelming response was education. Education is so important because it benefits the entire community. The children who get sponsored by people from the

States and have the privilege of attending college usually either return to the orphanages to help with the younger children, or get jobs and send money back to help, said Ford.

Making the trip to Africa and seeing for herself what the people there endure every day was very moving for Ford.

“It was a life changing experience for me,” Ford said. “The trip made me think about how life does not have to be so complicated. In the United States, we are so focused on making money to pay bills and get ahead, whereas in Kenya, they are just focused on the basics, like having food for the day – living one day at a time.”

She plans to return to Kenya with FITS in 2008 to offer hope and help to the people in need, a task she truly loves.

“Serving others is what I do best,” said Ford. “I love to do that kind of work, it is fulfilling to me to make others happy.”



Kevin, a severely handicapped boy receives a new wheelchair from FITS during Ford's visit to a Mudete village in Kisumu, Kenya.



Photos courtesy of Pat Ford

Children returning from school greet FITS members as they arrive at the village. They knew the group was on their way to the village to meet them and were very excited.



Pat Ford presents a young man with his first pair of shoes during a gathering in the Mudete village church. At 13 years old he had never owned shoes before receiving this pair from FITS.





Wheel of Salmon Survival helps Corps tell story

By Heidi Y. Helwig, Public Affairs Office

The colorful wheel resembled a miniature Wheel of Fortune, complete with the “click click click” as it spun. Instead of million dollar prize packages, spinners learned factoids about how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is helping to enhance salmon recovery in the Northwest.

The wheel debuted as part of the Corps’ booth at the Salmon Festival, held Oct. 14 and Oct. 15 at Oxbow Park in the Sandy River Gorge, 8 miles east of Gresham. Pat Sajak and Vanna White weren’t there, but the stars of this show were 12 District Division employees who came salmon.

Spinners could land on one of 15 topics on the wheel, which included turbines, predators, juvenile fish bypass and stewardship.

“The question I heard most was, ‘Can I spin the wheel again?’ especially from my own son,” said Bob Wertheimer, District fisheries biologist. “My reply always was, ‘spin it again!’”

“My favorite story is from a young boy who landed on the topic of water and how it could be bad,” Wertheimer said. “I asked him, ‘Can you think of how water could be bad for fish?’ He said, ‘sure, it could get too warm or polluted,’ which was a great answer,” Wertheimer said. To further the boy’s education on the subject, Wertheimer suggested that planting vegetation along the stream shorelines would help keep waters cool for fish. The boy, however, had a different view. “‘Nah...a huge panel to block the sun or a giant kite would be better!’ Another engineer in training,” he said.

Corps employees, including District Commander Col. Thomas O’Donovan, stationed themselves at the wheel during the two-day festival to promote the Corps’ efforts to improve salmon



Corps of Engineers Photo

Fisheries biologist Mike Langelsay chooses a Corps fact to share with a booth visitor during the Salmon Festival at Oxbow Park.

survival at its hydropower projects.

“I love this,” O’Donovan said, explaining that it was a great opportunity to visit with people at other booths who view the Corps’ role in salmon recovery differently than Corps employees may. “My catch phrase is, ‘do you have a question you’ve always wanted to ask the commander of the Corps of Engineers, but never had the chance to?’” He received a few full-throttle replies, he said, but for the most part he was able to engage folks in meaningful conversations about the Corps and its missions.

One need not be an expert in salmon to participate. As with any public event where the Corps hosts a display, at least one employee well-versed in the subject is paired with those less knowledgeable but who enjoy interacting with the public.

“I had a great time talking with the kids and parents about salmon,” said Bonneville Dam fisheries biologist Tammy Mackey, “and what the Corps is doing to protect them.”

The popularity of the wheel means it certainly will spin at future Salmon Festivals. While this year’s festival is now just a memory, planning will begin soon for the 2007 event, where topics, messages and giveaways need to be revamped. If you are interested in serving on a festival planning committee, call the Public Affairs Office at (503) 808-4510.