



THE MOBILE

District employees share their 9/11 stories



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Nov. 10, 2011

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From the Deputy Commander...

I was serving in Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) about six months ago when I received orders assigning me to Mobile District. Shortly thereafter - by phone - my predecessor, Lt. Col. Payne, told me that I had “won the lottery.” After just a couple of short months in Mobile, I am beginning to understand what he meant.

As I continue meeting district employees, I realize that I have just scratched the surface of what Mobile District does on a daily basis. Already, I have had the opportunity to speak with several groups, from small business leaders to my fellow dads on the youth football sidelines, about our district. The more I discover, learn and share; the more proud and excited I am to be a part of this robust organization.



*Lt. Col. Thomas F. Nelson
Mobile District Deputy Commander*

Because I grew up and went to school within the district’s civil boundary (western and northern Georgia), I like to think I’m finally “back home.” Transitioning here has been very easy given the warm welcome my family and I have received. Understanding some of the technical or organizational aspects has been a challenge as this is my first assignment to USACE in nearly 18 years of active duty. Although this is my first assignment, it’s not my first time working with USACE. I spent the last several years deployed alongside USACE professionals - volunteers who demonstrated commitment in accomplishing the nearly impossible task of managing large projects in a combat environment. They taught me how to spell MILCON, as well as sharing aspects of resource management, environmental stewardship, and real estate actions - not to mention technical competencies on which the force relies - and everything from the structural integrity of a bridge to the design of wastewater systems both “in” and “outside the wire.” Working with these folks and hearing them talk about their districts back home further reinforced my desire to be a part of the Corps.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the 15 district personnel currently deployed in support of overseas contingencies and the 21 other volunteers waiting for an assignment. Not only will you make a difference doing the important work that you are sent to do, but your interaction with other units or organizations will have positive effects that you may never know. Anyone interested may contact me directly and I welcome it.

Here in the district, I have had the chance to visit several projects and am continually impressed by the sheer magnitude and diversity of what we do, from contracting to civil works; from planning to construction; and the list goes on. The concept of building a dam to create a lake is relatively simple to understand, but releasing water from the dam and managing a waterway is excruciatingly complex and requires an extraordinary set of skills. I have learned - or should I say, been exposed to - so much in a short time and look forward to getting out to see more of the district as time goes on.

I have my own hard hat, safety vest, floatation device, and eye protection and would like to get my boots dirty at a location to be determined soon! Until then, stay safe!

Building Strong! - **Lt. Col Thomas F. Nelson**

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District employees share their 9/11 stories

Story by Lance Davis, Public Affairs Office



Rebecca Fosnight is sitting at her desk in the Deployable Tactical Operations Systems Headquarters Office watching The Weather Channel. She is monitoring the stormy weather in the Atlantic Ocean for a potential hurricane. It's Sept. 11, 2001 and Fosnight has only been with Mobile District for about two months.

Suddenly one of her colleague's yells, "Turn on the news now!" Someone changes the station. A plane has just hit one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Everbody immediately stops what they are doing. Fosnight is in shock because she cannot believe what she's seeing. Michael Miller, the then DTOS chief, announces DTOS will deploy.

"This was my first emergency deployment and a hard one to have, but it left a big impression," Fosnight said. "When I got home late on that day, the first thing I did was hug my children."

She was responsible for supporting and monitoring DTOS teams from all over the country. Coming from a military family and being a former Marine, Fosnight used what she gained from the experience to stay on top of her mission. "When you're in the military, you learn how to focus on what you've got to do. I knew we were helping people, which helped me."

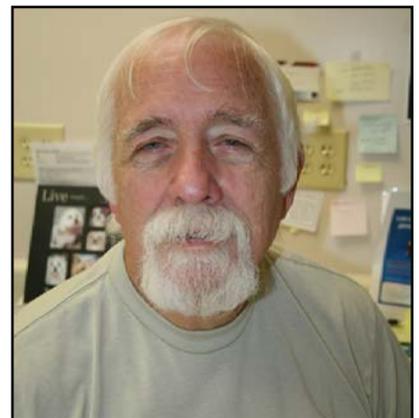
Although she has had several other emergency response experiences, Fosnight said her deployment during 9/11 is one of the most memorable. "You have to take every response individually, but 9/11 still brings tears to my eyes."

George "Lewis" Palmer - a communication manager for DTOS - was working outside the office on an emergency vehicles Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001. He received a call from his wife who told him a plane had just flown into one of the twin towers.

"I initially thought this was a mistake, an accident," Palmer said. "But when she called back saying a second plane flew into the other twin tower; and these were big jetliners, I knew right then this was no mistake."

Michael Miller, DTOS chief then, gathered everyone together and said "our team will be deploying to New York."

"By 9 pm we were on our way. We drove all night Tuesday and all day that Wednesday. We arrived at a reserve base in New Jersey around 1 am on Thursday."



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9/11 stories...continued

Palmer and the other team members didn't know what to expect. They had experience with floods, hurricanes and earthquakes but nothing like this.

Later that day the DTOS team mobilized to Ground Zero via the Holland Tunnel - a highway tunnel under the Hudson River connecting the island of Manhattan in New York City with Jersey City, N.J. at Interstate 78 on the mainland. According to Palmer, they could see "everything still burning" when they came through the tunnel.

"Our mission was to support the New York Fire Department by establishing communications and providing a working platform for the firefighters. We set up two units by Friday morning with FEMA."

Palmer recalled the whistle blasts during the firefighters' Search and Rescue Mission.

"If you heard one long blast, you had to run away from Ground Zero. It was possible a building might come down. I remember hearing this blast a couple of times. Everyone had to be quiet with the two short whistle blasts because it was possible they [the firefighters] had found someone alive."

When Search & Rescue ended, the mission was focused on recovery. The working platform provided by USACE continued supporting the fire department with communication outlets and a place to work.

Although it's been 10 years, Palmer said 9/11 terrorists attacks still concern him but insists DTOS is standing by come what may.

"I've been around for a while and have seen lots of things. But this was something I never dreamed I would see and will be in my mind forever. I worry what the next one could be like."

"The bottom line is that we are, we are ready and will support whatever mission we are tasked. We appreciate all the volunteers who serve."



New York City firefighters were a leading first respondent to the tragedy of 9/11. The USACE Deployable Tactical Operational Systems Unit served as a support agency to the city of New York Fire Department as well as the Police Department. Photo courtesy of DTOS Headquarters, Irvington, Ala.

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9/11 stories...continued

Terrell Bosarge who is now an operations manager for DTOS was working as a computer network administrator for the district's information management section 10 years ago on Sept. 11, 2001.

It was a normal day on the 6th floor at Mobile District Headquarters before everyone witnessed the terrorists attacks on the United States, specifically the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York City.

Because Bosarge was already trained to setup and operate the DTOS communication equipment, he volunteered within the hour and was on his way with the deployed team that Tuesday evening and arrived at Ground Zero Thursday evening.

"One of my most vivid memories was going from New Jersey to New York through the Holland Tunnel. It was late in the evening. New Jersey had all the bright lights and sounds of a bustling city," Bosarge said. "On the other side [New York's lower Manhattan], it was pitch black with no lights or power. There was a strange smell in the air. Ashes were still falling. It was almost like snow, but we knew it wasn't snow."



Bosarge assisted with finding locations where the satellite equipment would actually work. Once the locations were determined, he and other team members from USACE and FEMA were able to get telecommunications "up and running."



Terrell Bosarge pictured at Ground Zero during the recovery efforts from the 9/11 events in New York City. Photo courtesy of Terrell Bosarge.

"I think the challenges that were big for me were big for everybody. Before additional teams showed up, we were working extremely long hours. Our jobs became easier and more focused on maintenance once the initial setup was done, which is typical for any deployment."

Bosarge said that all the supporting agencies and volunteers knew how emotionally drained the fire and police departments were as they were leading the search, rescue and recovery efforts.

He recalled the hundreds and maybe even thousands of volunteers early on who assisted with removing debris in assembly lines, passing the buckets forwards and backwards.

Like many, this deployment was not easy for Bosarge and his family. He left his wife back home with a three year old and six month old, which was a difficult time for him to be separated from his family. Nevertheless, he

knew he had a job to do and looked to a higher calling to stay mission focused.

"My spiritual foundation, my faith in Jesus Christ and my faith in God are what kept me going and what gave me the strength I needed to accomplish the mission."

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Wayne Gullede shares his story, in his own words



USACE Deployable Tactical Operations Systems team members stand at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan New York in the midst of burning debris during the federal and local response to the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 also known as 9/11. Pictured from left to right are: Dave Holley, Omaha District; the late David Fultz and Wayne Gullede, Mobile District. Photo courtesy of Wayne Gullede.

I am a full-time pushboat captain for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Gaines, Georgia, working on Lake Walter F. George as well as the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint River System. In addition, I am also a part of the DTOS (Deployable Tactical Operations System) out of Irvington, Ala. outside of Mobile, Ala. The purpose of the DTOS unit is to deploy to disaster areas and set up emergency systems to assist in emergency power, satellite, computer rooms, etc.

Generally we assist in disasters caused by Mother Nature, such as hurricanes and tornadoes. But on Sept. 11, 2001, our assistance was requested to help the New York City Fire Department and other First Responders following the horrific terror attacks at Ground Zero.

I, along with co-worker Johnny Littlefield, left the job we were working on with the pushboat at George Andrews Dam in Columbia, Ala. and deployed immediately to Mobile, Ala. to be a part of the DTOS unit being sent to Ground Zero. The DTOS team drove a convoy of emergency vehicles from Mobile to New York City.

We departed Mobile on Sept. 11, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. and arrived at the New Jersey National Guard Armory at 2:00

a.m. on Sept. 13, 2001, driving straight through. We could see the twin tower area still burning from there.

We arrived at Ground Zero later that day. We set up six DTOS units; four tractor trailer rigs and two Emergency Command Center Vehicles; one on each street around Ground Zero, to be accessible to all areas in that radius.

At the time I arrived at Ground Zero, it was obvious that the NYC Firefighters were still pretty much in shock and doing anything humanly possible to rescue their buddies as well as any other survivors.

It was a surreal feeling to watch them desperately clawing at the rubble and seeing the disbelief in their eyes as they told their stories.



New York City firefighters at Ground Zero in the aftermath of the terrorists attacks. Photo courtesy of USACE Deployable Tactical Operations Unit, Irvington, Ala.

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Wayne Gulledge continued...



Wayne Gulledge pictured with wife Peggy at the First Responder Appreciation Ceremony held in Fort Gaines, Ga. on Sept. 10, 2011. The event recognized the 10-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States while also honoring local first responders, specifically those, like Gulledge, who supported the response and recovery of 9/11. Photo courtesy of Wayne Gulledge.

Each morning as I left my motel to report to duty at Ground Zero, people would line the sidewalks outside the barricades and cheer the workers coming in.

They would hold signs, shout encouragement, and sometimes even throw packs of crackers or other snacks into our vehicles just to be a small part of helping out.

My days were pretty much filled providing the firefighters with whatever assistance they needed to do the job they had to do. We drove them around to different areas using gators (utility vehicles) as the main source of transportation. We provided water, generators, satellites, Internet service and a helping hand however we could. Sometimes just giving them an outlet to listen to their stories was their need.

Even though I did not personally help in recovering bodies, I did witness this process first hand and it was truly heart wrenching. Each time a firefighter's body was found, he was draped with a flag with his helmet on top. The most difficult job I personally had to do was to move a makeshift morgue, which was actually a refrigerated trailer.

Breathing the dust in the air, even though we used dust masks and ventilators, made me so hoarse, my wife could barely understand me

when I got a chance to call home.

An average work day for the first week or so was typically 14-18 hours. It was sometimes 3:00 in the morning when I arrived at my hotel room and was able to call home.

I deployed back to Mobile, Ala. from NYC after 29 days there. That doesn't seem like a long period of time, but considering the intensity of the mission there, it is a period of time that is forever imprinted in my memory.

Even after 10 years, I can only talk about my experiences with family and close friends.



Wayne Gulledge stands behind a welcome sign in front of his home made by his wife Peggy. Photo courtesy of Wayne Gulledge.

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SOUTHCOM project receives DBIA Award

Story by Lt. Col. John Pilot, Patrick Air Force Base

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The U.S. Southern Command Headquarters Project completed by Mobile District received the Design Build Excellence Award (2nd Place) from the Design Build Institute of America Oct. 20 at an awards ceremony in Orlando, Fla.

DBIA recognizes the most successful design-build projects in the United States and the most influential people in the advancement of the design and construction industry. Projects must be delivered under a single source contract between the owner/user and the design-builder or the design-build team that was considered "at risk" for cost and schedule. As a minimum requirement, projects must be completed on time, within budget and with no litigation. Only 23 projects in 10 construction categories received awards.

When U.S. Southern Command began outgrowing its current space, a plan was developed to design and build a state-of-the-art military complex installation certified in LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and large enough to support the command's operations, consolidating personnel into a central location. Previously, US SOUTHCOM operated out of a total of 271,000 square feet of space located in nine separate commercial buildings leased throughout Miami. The brand-new facilities in the complex offer more than double this previous space. Having all staff, directorates, and support organizations (such as interagency and nongovernmental organization partners) consolidated under one roof in the new facility optimizes operational efficiency significantly. Prior to the project, staffs were split among facilities.

Mobile District was tasked with building the new estimated \$268 Million US SOUTHCOM Headquarters Complex in Doral, Miami-Dade County, Fla. As the state of Florida's largest design-build project, the project provides SOUTHCOM with new high tech, well-secure facilities to accomplish its mission. This campus-style project on a 55-acre site was completed using a design-build contract and entrusted the multi-disciplinary team of MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. to serve as the USACE quality assurance and construction administration representative for the project. In order to meet the challenge of achieving completion of both the design and construction of the project in only 27 months, the project was designated as design-build. This fast-track process added significantly to the complexity and pace of problem solving needed to meet the client's expectations. At midpoint of completing the project, US SOUTHCOM underwent two major changes: a change of command and a change in structure. The design-build contract afforded Mobile District to respond to these changes in the most cost-effective manner, saving USACE \$8.5 million in estimated construction cost.

This USACE Mobile District design-build project's general contractor was Hensel Phelps and the structural designers were HOK and Brittingham & Associates. The enormous project included constructing three new steel frame structures: the 630,000 square foot headquarters, a 160,000 square foot services building, and a 40,000 square foot Conference Center of the Americas (CCA). The new headquarters building provides adequate operational space to house about 2,883 personnel. The services building houses a support center for the headquarters, fitness center, dental offices, a medical clinic and a family services center. The CCA provides small and large conference rooms to accommodate SOUTHCOM personnel as well as joint, international coalition and interagency visitors.



Sean Vannoy, project manager, Hensel Phelps Construction Co. Col. Norberto Cintron, USSOUTHCOM Command Engineer, and Dennis Newell, Mobile District Resident Engineer, Cape Patrick Office (pictured right of Col. Cintron) receive the 2011 Design Build Excellence Award (2nd Place) from the Design Build Institute of America at an awards ceremony held at the Marriott World Center in Orlando, Fla. Others pictured are from DBIA. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. John Pilot.

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7th Special Forces Group Project complete

Story by Lisa Coghlan, Public Affairs Office

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Col. Antonio M. Fletcher, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Commander and Florida State Senator Don Gatz of signify the ceremony with the cutting of the ribbon for the completion of the 7th Special Forces Group Project. South Atlantic Division Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite and Mobile District Commander Col. Steve Roemhildt were in attendance. Photo by Lisa Coghlan

The Air Force Special Operations Forces is currently located on the Eglin Reservation at Hurlburt and Duke Field. Duke Field is located about six miles east of the 7th Special Forces Cantonment site.

This is a historical milestone for the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), because this move will facilitate joint operations, training and overall cooperation between the Army and Air Force Special Operations Forces.

The 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is currently located in a limited area on Ft Bragg, N.C. As part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC), the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) will relocate from Fort Bragg, N.C. to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. At least 2,200 service members and their families will be moving to Florida. The moves will be staggered throughout the year due to operational commitments of the service members.

A new cantonment site and training ranges were built for the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). A cantonment, is a temporary or semi-permanent military quarters.

A cantonment, is a temporary or semi-permanent military quarters.

The cantonment area will be unique for the Army Special Forces because the military members will be able to train and prepare for future deployments without ever leaving the cantonment area. Their new cantonment area is more than 500 acres within the Eglin AFB reservation occupied strictly by the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Currently 350 acres have been cleared for construction and more than one million square feet of construction occurred simultaneously.

The cantonment area is finished and the base will be self sustaining. There is a Group Command Headquarters, four group battalion/company operations facilities, an indoor baffle firing range, a dining facility, fitness training center, and three barracks which will house 288 occupants.

Other support facilities are medical and dental clinics, a fire station, and other use buildings. The cantonment area has more than 35 structures and ten ranges for operational use.

More than \$300M has been awarded for construction which includes \$275M on the cantonment and another \$25M for 10 training ranges. Additionally, another \$70M will be awarded in the next two years.

An official ribbon cutting occurred on Oct 14.



An aerial view of the 7th Special Forces Group Project. Photo Courtesy of Mobile Eglin Air Force Base Resident Office in Shalimar, Fla.

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Holt Lake rangers support Valley Creek Cleanup

Story by Ranger Diane Gruman, Holt Lake Resource Office

IN THE COMMUNITY

Park rangers from the district's Holt Lake Resource Office supported the 2011 Renew Our Rivers Valley Creek Cleanup back in August.

Holt Lake, a narrow winding body of water, is part of the Black Warrior River System and lies six miles northeast of Tuscaloosa, Ala. and stretches for 18 miles and encompasses 3,200 surface acres. The lake is part of the Holt Lake Resource Office's natural resource and recreational management, providing opportunities for water-related and other outdoor recreation.



Volunteers at work in Valley Creek in support of the Renew Our Rivers Valley Creek Cleanup. Photo courtesy of Diane Gruman.

Valley Creek, located in western Jefferson County, Ala., is an urbanized waterway that is susceptible to pollution from debris, metal and miscellaneous items found throughout the 50-mile watershed.



Valley Creek Cleanup volunteers pictured in Bessemer, Ala. Photo courtesy of Diane Gruman.

Over 200 volunteers removed 24 tons of trash and debris from a stretch of the watershed going from B.Y. Williams Sr. Drive in Midfield, Ala. to Murphy Lane Bridge in Bessemer, Ala. The clean up's success was due to the sponsors and volunteers that included a coalition of local citizens; municipalities; industries; county, state and federal agencies; Jefferson County Department of Health; and CAWACO.

JCDH worked alongside municipal public work employees to remove debris and heavy items that could not be easily removed by individual volunteers.

Volunteers removed floatable trash, tires and other debris from sloughs using donated canoes and waders. All trash collected was transported by James Moore Trucking free of cost as well as dumping fees being waived by Allied Waste Management and Santek Cooperation.

The total debris pickup included: 2100 lbs of metal recycled; 7220 lbs of tires removed and 19.34 tons of other waste material including plastics, car parts, and other miscellaneous items properly disposed.

Volunteers were treated to a hot dog lunches donated by local businesses and coordinated by local municipalities and JCDH.

Renew Our Rivers is a campaign established by Alabama Power that began as a single, river clean-up event in Gadsden, Ala. Now, the campaign includes annual river-clean-up events in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi the Florida panhandle, six river systems and more than 10,000 volunteers.

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Bay Springs rangers host seniors fishing event

Story by Lance Davis, Public Affairs Office

IN THE COMMUNITY



Bay Springs Park Ranger Steven Koon assists a Landmark Community resident with his fishing rod. Photo courtesy of Bays Springs Site Office.

Park Rangers from the Bay Springs Site Office in Dennis, Miss. hosted a fishing event on Bay Springs Lake in late September for senior residents from The Landmark Community - assisted living residence located in Booneville, Miss.

“We met with the director of programming and showed her a few locations around the lake that were suitable for what she wanted to do,” Park Ranger Michael Carter said. “She decided on Crow’s Neck Ramp and brought 16 residents of the community out to fish.”

According to Carter, there were plenty of fishing rods left over from previous fishing rodeos and the residents brought their own bait and lunch, making it an enjoyable day.

“Park Rangers Todd Holley, Chad Pearson, Craig Koon, Ben Davis and I assisted the residents with baiting hooks and taking off the fish. They didn’t catch much but had a good time trying and just visiting with everyone,” Carter said.

Because the Landmark residents had such a good time, program director Jennifer Wroten told Bay Springs rangers she plans to make this an annual event.



Park Rangers host senior residents from The Landmark Community Residence in Booneville, Miss. at Bay Springs with a fishing event. Photo courtesy of Bays Springs Site Office.



Landmark Community senior residents from Booneville, Miss. enjoy a day of fishing on Bay Springs Lake. Photo courtesy of Bays Springs Site Office.

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Community remembers 9/11, recognizes first responders

Story by Lance Davis, Public Affairs Office

IN THE COMMUNITY



Citizens from Fort Gaines and Clay County, Ga. stand during a tribute to the victims of 9/11. Photo courtesy of Wayne Gulledge.

First responders to 9/11 from Mobile District were celebrated in an first responder appreciation ceremony held Sept. 10 in Fort Gaines, Ga. at the Woman's Club House by an appreciation committee made up of citizens from Clay County, Ga.

Local honorees included James "Wayne" Gulledge, a pushboat captain; and Johnny Littlefield, a chief engineer, for Pushboat Campbell out of the Walter F. George Natural Resources Site Office in Fort Gaines. Gulledge and Littlefield volunteered to serve as first responders to 9/11 via the USACE Deployable Tactical Operations Systems Team, or DTOS, which is located in Irvington, Ala. Other honorees included first responders in the community.

"With this being the 10-year anniversary of the attacks at Ground Zero in New York City, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa., we wanted to not only reflect on the heartbreak of those attacks and remember the innocent lives lost, but to also let our local first responders know how much we appreciate all they do to protect and serve Clay County," committee chairperson Peggy Gulledge said.

This was the first time ever the city and county recognized its first responders as well as the volunteers who served as first responders to the attacks of 9/11, and the committee chairperson described it as "long over due." The USACE DTOS Team attended the event to support the district's honorees as well as setup a display of a DTOS unit. Sara Jernigan, natural resources manager at Walter F. George, also attended and delivered a speech in honor of Wayne Gulledge.

"I cannot imagine the memories that will remain forever seared in his mind and heart from those 29 days at Ground Zero, but I do know that like so many other first responders, he is willing to respond whenever there is a disaster," Jernigan told the audience. "He, like so many others, will continue to give unselfishly to the greater good of humanity, always answering the call to help others."

Littlefield was not able to attend because he was deployed to Long Island, N.Y. to support the federal response during the East Coast floods as a result of Hurricane Irene. His son Keith Stinson spoke on his behalf.

Wayne Gulledge was humbled by the recognition but does not consider himself a hero.

"This was real special to me and I'm grateful, but I don't consider myself a hero because I only did my part as a human being," he said.



First Responder Appreciation Committee Chairperson Peggy Gulledge pictured with DTOS Team in front of a DTOS vehicle. To her left is husband and DTOS volunteer Wayne Gulledge along with DTOS logistics manager Danny Richardson. To her right is George "Lewis" Palmer, communication manager for DTOS. Photo courtesy of Wayne Gulledge.



Deployable Tactical Operations Systems Chief Conrad Williams addresses citizens of Fort Gaines and Clayton County, Ga. during the very first First Responder Appreciation Ceremony held Sept. 10. Behind Williams are members of the USACE DTOS Team. Photo courtesy of Wayne Gulledge.

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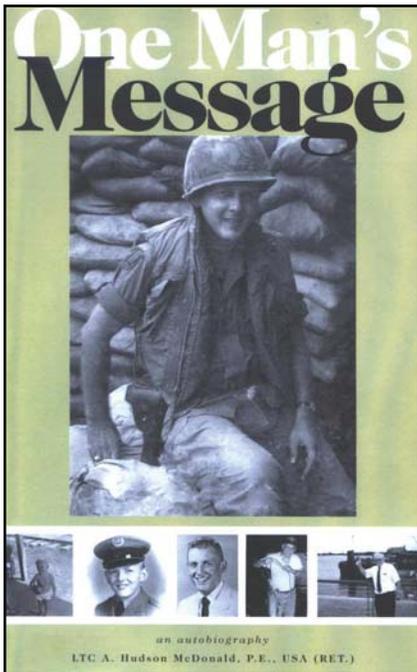
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One veteran, his message

Story by Lance Davis, Public Affairs Office



Lt. Col. Alfred Hudson McDonald entered his final military assignment July 1979 when he assumed the position of Deputy District Engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. More than 30 years later, McDonald, a veteran, gives a testimony of his life in the autobiography "One Man's Message."

"Early in my adult life, I was encouraged to write of my experiences by a district judge in my hometown of Chickasaw, Ala. in June 1964 when I had just returned home from Korea," McDonald said.

McDonald's father Alfred S. McDonald who was ranked Master of the Masonic Lodge wanted his son, a newer Mason then, to speak before their fraternal organization about his military experiences in Korea. The district judge at the lodge was so inspired by his remarks that he encouraged the young, commissioned officer to keep a journal throughout his career.

"I promised him I would, but as time went on, the plot [of my life] thickened and I never did. This is why it was important for me to write this book at this point in my life."

The book is written in three sections: the early years, his first career and subsequent careers and conclusion. As a young man, McDonald has a remote upbringing while living in a railroad house where his father was a bridge tender. He is surrounded by sawmills, launch services and tug boats. Many young and adolescent experiences are encountered. His military career carries him abroad to work on secret combat developments where he meets dignitaries, works with foreign allies and faces combat in Vietnam. As an engineer, he transcends several careers to include city and county governments as well as construction and consulting. Finally, the book concludes with local interests spanning the past 30 years.

"The theme of this book is that God's direction has been with me and He works in mysterious ways, as the Good Book says. He has a plan for me; I'm not sure I have fully recognized His plan, but I am still endeavoring to do His work."

Lt. Col. (Retired) A. Hudson McDonald is a registered engineer who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Auburn University and a master's in civil engineering from Texas A&M University. In addition, he is a graduate of the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College. McDonald's awards include two Bronze Stars, Meritorious Service Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, Meritorious Unit Citation, Civil Action Medal and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm. He has written several articles to his credit about Army Combat Developments, Civil War history, philately and numismatics. He retired from the U.S. Army while serving as Deputy Commander of USACE Mobile District. Later he retired from working as the projects architectural-engineering department director for the city of Mobile.

McDonald is an avid outdoorsman who practices consultant engineering; provides talks on patriotism, duty to God and country; and lectures on Confederate States of America currency and postal history. He and his wife Cheryl reside in Spanish Fort, Ala.

His book is available in the Mobile District Office Library.

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New permit offers viable option

Story by Sandy Gibson, Regulatory Division

Mobile District has issued a new Living Shorelines Regional General Permit as part of its 2011 General Permit Program for Minor Structures and Activities for use within the state of Alabama. The LSGP is the first general permit of its kind throughout USACE. Living shorelines provide for the long-term protection, restoration and enhancement of both stable and degraded shorelines which are subjected to a variety of energy regimes by using plants, stone, sand fill and other organic or natural materials. They also provide protection to local roads along the shoreline, thus creating millions in savings to taxpayers.



Coffee Island northeast shoreline of coastal Alabama. Photo by Mary Kate Stubjar/The Nature Conservancy

Mobile District's Coastal Alabama Team took the living shorelines concept, and expanded it to include structural and non-structural alternatives, applicable for use over a range of fresh-water to marine ecosystems, useable not only by the private landowner but also for larger acreages targeted for restoration and creation.

LSGP promotes the preservation, protection and restoration of dunes, beaches, wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation, protection and propagation of essential fish habitat, shoreline restoration and nourishment. LSGP is developed for use in areas subjected to scour, erosion, sloughing, high energy wave action, storm damage and other similar areas which are in need of restoration. It focuses on a minimalistic, naturalized approach with limited or temporary structural enhancement in order to achieve a self-sustaining, stabilized shoreline, in lieu of the traditional seawall or bulkhead revetments. LSGP is applicable over a wide range of habitats and ecosystems in waters of the United States. Marine, estuarine, riverine, lacustrine, and palustrine environments could be enhanced and restored by the living shoreline activities and are not restricted to tidal or tidally-influenced waters.

Natural habitat and storm surge protection

LSGP encourages reef and/or breakwater construction used in conjunction with living shorelines principals. These methods encourage shoreline enhancement or restoration, and incorporate construction design(s) to address natural sediment transport and promote low wave energy abatement which assist in creating new or enhancing existing habitat. Fish species and other organisms would utilize the new habitat for shelter, feeding and other substrate or topographic enhanced living conditions.

In some circumstances, the aggregation of sediment may introduce or supplement microbial populations, providing additional opportunities for foraging resources and provide a favorable structure for propagation of vegetative communities, thus, further adding to favorable conditions for greater juvenile fish survival, increased species diversity, and population density.

Restoration and repair of beach berms and dune systems will facilitate active storm surge protection, provide more suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species that utilize these areas, promote additional protection for inland areas, and supplement buffering capacities of coastal marsh and wetland resources.

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New permit continued...

A safeguard for Alabama's shorelines

A widespread application of LSGP will help safeguard the state's natural shorelines. Although not all habitats have the components to support highly productive habitats, living shorelines are unique and establish a link between other inland and shoreline resources; provides a conduit for water storage and routes of fish migration; storm protection; wave abatement; and provides habitat and food resources for migratory birds, nesting turtles and other coastal and inland species.

The Mobile District coastal team predicts the environmental setting, without the installation of shoreline stabilization methods, would continue to degrade over time; either from a physical state, chemical state or both. If this happens, the environmental setting will result in the loss of aquatic and terrestrial habitat and biological function as well distribute this degradation and instability to adjacent areas.



Bagged Shell Reef at Helen Wood Park located in Mobile, Ala. Photo by Mary Kate Stubljar, The Nature Conservancy.

No additional agency coordination REQUIRED

LSGP makes the "living shorelines" concept a more viable and attractive option, allowing applicants to avoid a lengthy and costly permit process. It also provides an efficient, effective one-stop shop for shoreline protection and enhancement projects. For the majority of permit actions, additional agency coordination is not required – greatly reducing permit evaluation time. This condensed review process results in decreased financial impacts by requiring less man hours and other office resources in comparison with traditional permitting options. At the same time, the LSGP provides a valuable service to the regulated public and encourages the protection and enhancement our Nation's aquatic natural resources. The LSGP provides excellent benefits to the regulated public by savings of time and money in the permitting process and also provides environmental benefits of natural shorelines stabilization.

Agencies and stakeholders agree on LSGP

The drafting of the LSGP involved coordination with multiple Federal and State agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (state Lands and marine resources divisions), as well as, other non-governmental organizations. The end result was the creation of the LSGP which was well received by not only these agencies but also by the public at large and non-profit environmental organizations, including the Mobile Bay National Estuarine Research Reserves (NEER), the Weeks Bay NEER, the Mobile National Estuary Program, the Mobile Baykeeper, The Nature Conservancy and the Alabama Coastal Foundation.

Educational outreach planned

Mobile District is actively partnering with Federal and State agencies and non-government organizations to promote educational outreach for the LSGP. LSGP will provide a basis for the creation of similar living shorelines strategies and provide other Districts with an avenue for further protection, enhancement and creation of resources for the benefit of their communities and environments.

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Ethics Corner: 'Tis the season, gifts between employees

by Adrienne Davis, Office of Counsel



What is a permissible gift in acknowledgment of a special event, holiday or retirement in the work place?

The answer to this question is not always the same even in what would seem to be very similar situations. Factors to consider are: supervisory or subordinate status of the giver and recipient; dollar value of the gift; and whether there is a family or personal relationship.

An employee may give a supervisor gifts, other than cash, on an occasional bases, having a value of \$10 or less per occasion including birthday or annual holiday. For "special infrequent occasions" which include marriage; illness; birth or adoption; and transfer or retirement, an employee may give a supervisor a gift appropriate to the occasion.

There is no dollar limit for food items to be shared with many– ENJOY!

There is also no specific dollar limit or legal restrictions on gifts given to peers, however, good taste and common sense always apply. Additionally where a personal relationship exists between the giver and recipient that justifies a greater value gift, the \$10 limit per occasion may be exceeded. In this situation, you may consider exchanging gifts of a more personal nature outside of the workplace, although this is not required.

Gifts and contributions are strictly voluntary! Also, an employee may NEVER accept a gift in return for performance of an official act or accept gifts so frequently that it appears the employee is using public office for private gain. When it comes to gifts in the workplace, a small-dollar gift with an abundance of well-wishes is best. It is truly, the thought that counts!

Note: Please remember that this information is general in nature and meant only to provide a brief overview of various legal matters. Rights and responsibilities vary widely according to the particular set of circumstances in each case. Do not rely upon general background information presented here without discussing the specific situation with a legal professional. For more information, contact the district's Designated Agency Ethics Advisor at 251-690-2493.



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Briefs

American Diabetes Month. Diabetes an illness in which the body is unable to produce or use the insulin it needs to produce glucose, afflicts millions of Americans and can lead to disability and death. American Diabetes Month was created to raise awareness about the seriousness of this disease and the importance of treatment.

National American Indian Heritage Month. Honoring the original peoples of the American continent and celebrating the important contributions Native Americans have made to this country. [CLICK HERE](#) for information on the district’s Special Emphasis Leadership Forum’s Native American Heritage Month Observance.

National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month. According to the Alzheimer’s Association, more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s and as many as 10 million family members are responsible for them as caregivers.

National Adoption Month. In 1995, President Bill Clinton proclaimed November National Adoption Month, a time to celebrate family and remind people that hundreds of thousands of children in foster homes are waiting to be adopted.

Church/State Separation Week, Nov. 22-26. A week acknowledging the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..”

Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To honor the sacrifices and contributions of those men and women who served in the Armed Services.

Thanksgiving, Nov. 24. Feast on a turkey and remember those settlers who came to American shores.

Links of Interest

[USACE Headquarters](#)

[Mobile District Home Page](#)

[Army News](#)

[Mobile District Careers](#)

[Army Civilian Service](#)

[Federal Employee Pay & Leave Schedule](#)

[Army Knowledge Online](#)

[USAJOBS](#)

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251-690-2505

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SECURITY BULLETIN

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense – Reserve Affairs
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)
1555 Wilson Blvd., Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 696-1171 x 548
Robert Tizon, Force Protection Officer
roberto.tizon@osd.mil



October 27, 2011

Photocopying of Military Identification Cards



Recent incidents regarding the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC), by commercial establishments to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service, have been reported.

Personnel are reminded that the photocopying of US Government Identification is a violation of **Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701** and punishable by both fine and/or imprisonment.



Many military members, family members and DoD employees are unaware of this law. Please pass to the lowest level and include in training for force protection, information security and OPSEC.

FPO COMMENTS: Criminal elements and terrorist organizations place U.S. government identifications as a high value logistical element when planning acts against the U.S. military.

Although commercial establishments are not prohibited from asking for military/government identification, many government personnel and commercial establishments are unaware of the prohibition on duplication of government identification. Unfortunately, there are no safeguards in place to ensure a government identification card won't be counterfeited or "cloned" based on a photocopy by a commercial establishment.

It is recommended that military/DoD personnel provide a state drivers license or other form of photo identification to be photocopied if an establishment insists on a photocopy of the traveler's identification.

***NOTE:** This does not apply to medical establishments (i.e. doctor's office, hospitals, etc...) who are allowed take a copy for the purpose of filing insurance claims; and other government agencies in the performance of official government business.

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REMEMBER

Should you witness activity that may be criminal or terrorist in nature, contact the Pentagon Force Protection Agency **IMMEDIATELY** at 703-692-2729



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Regional Occupational Health Center

P.O. Box 2288 ♦ Mobile, AL 36628-0001 ♦ 251-690-2670

2011-2012 Flu Vaccine

The **2011-2012 Influenza Vaccine** is available to Mobile District Office employees at the **Regional Occupational Health Center** in **Room 2009** between the hours of **9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** and **1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** Employees interested should contact ROHC at **251-690-2670 while supplies last.**

The following information should be reviewed before making your decision to receive the vaccine:

Influenza

Influenza is a serious disease. People of any age can get Influenza. Most people are ill with Influenza for only a few days, but some get much sicker and may need to be hospitalized. Influenza causes thousands of deaths each year, mostly among the elderly. Anyone who wants to reduce their chance of catching influenza should have the vaccine.

Talk with a doctor before getting the Influenza vaccination if you:

1. Have ever had a serious reaction to eggs or to a previous dose of the Influenza vaccine.
2. Have a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)
3. Are pregnant. (Bring a note from your physician)
4. Have a history of allergy to thimerosal (found in contact lens solution)

Note: If you have a fever or are severely ill at the time the injection is scheduled, you should usually wait until you recover before getting the Influenza vaccine.

We look forward to seeing you!

The Regional Occupational Health Center Team



USACE Mobile District
Special Emphasis Leadership Forum

presents

Native American Heritage Month

Observance and Lunch and Learn

"Service, Honor, Respect: Strengthening Our Cultures and Communities."

Featuring



Andrew Willis

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Tribe, Member



Sonja Monk

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Tribe, Activist

Friday, November 18, 2011

1130 - 1300

USACE Annex



2012 Pay and Leave Schedule

US Army Corps
of Engineers®

0

Payday
 Holiday
 End of Pay Period

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2011 Leave year ends December 31, 2011 (Use or Lose Time must be Used or Forfeited)

2012 Leave year begins January 1, 2012

2012 Leave year ends January 12, 2013 27 Leave Periods

2012 Pay year ends December 15, 2012 26 Pay Periods