

Federal programs focus on Los Angeles River

By Dave Palmer

LOS ANGELES — Col. Mike Wehr, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division and Col. Mark Toy District commander participated in the launch ceremony for the Los Angeles River Watershed Project held at North Atwater Park on Jan. 12.

The Los Angeles River was identified in 2010 as a priority by the Obama administration under the America's Great Outdoors initiative and is now one of seven pilot cities for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

"We are grateful that the Obama administration has made the LA River a priority through America's Great Outdoors and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "By working together, we can create an emerald necklace of parks, walkways, and bike paths that will protect the river's environmental



Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar (left) speaks with Col. Mike Wehr, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division before the ceremony to celebrate the selection of the Los Angeles River Watershed as a priority project under the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. (USACE photo by Dave Palmer)

integrity and promote access and economic growth for all Angelenos."

Representing the Obama administration, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar joined Rep. Lucille Royball-Allard, Rep. Adam Schiff, Councilman Ed Reyes and

other key stakeholders in celebrating the selection of the Los Angeles River Watershed as a priority project under the President's UWFP.

"Today we are celebrating the partnerships that are transforming the Los Angeles River watershed into a na-

tional symbol of how once-neglected urban waterways can be cleaned up and restored to improve the quality of life and boost the economy in America's communities," said Salazar. "Once known for pollution and poverty, these watersheds can become model urban parks cherished for their trails and access to river recreation."

Under the purview of 11 federal agencies, UWFP is designed to stimulate regional and local economies by creating jobs and improving quality of life in under-served communities across the nation.

"Water is the lifeblood of our communities and we must care for our watersheds and urban waterways around the nation," said Salazar. "Through this partnership and President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative, Interior is committed to increasing public access

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SAME members have breakfast with the Acting Chief of Engineers. Page 2



District Commander Col. Mark Toy speaks with STEM students. Page 5



Judge Brown presides over District's King Celebration. Page 7

Breakfast with the Chief

By Dave Palmer

LOS ANGELES — Society of American Military Engineers posts from Los Angeles, Orange County and the Inland Empire held their 26th annual joint breakfast meeting Jan. 13. The keynote speaker currently serves as the Acting Chief of Engineers and Commanding General for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Los Angeles District Commander Col. Mark Toy introduced Maj. Gen. Merdith W.B. (Bo) Temple to more than 100 SAME members. He mentioned that, among the general's many accomplishments, he holds the distinction of being the only individual to ever hold all four general officer billets at USACE headquarters. Once a permanent Chief is named, Temple will retire with 37 years-of-service.

For his remarks, Temple took the opportunity to discuss where the Corps and the Army find themselves today and where they are headed.

"As fiscal year 2011 came to an end, the Corps was wrapping up an unprecedented period of construction and project execution," said Temple. "For example, over the past five years,

we provided \$12 billion in BRAC-related (Base Realignment and Closure) construction; \$7 billion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) work in both military and civil works programs; and about \$14 billion of Gulf Coast recovery work!"

And, 2011 brought roughly three times the disaster declarations of a normal year.

"USACE responded to devastating tornadoes and severe spring storms, as well as hurricanes and tropical storms, under the National Response Framework in support of FEMA," said Temple. "We are working now with the \$1.7 billion appropriated supplement to the Corps' budget in disaster relief to make emergency repairs before the 2012 flood season is upon us."

For the future the general discussed the continuing fiscal challenges the Nation faces.

"We are operating in a more complex, less certain, resource-constrained environment which requires a more focused, systems-based approach and more collaboration to develop and deliver safe, quality engineering solutions on time, at or below cost, to our customers, stakeholders and partners."

Even with fiscal challenges, locally, the District will benefit from Obama administration programs like America's Great Outdoors and the new Urban Waters Federal Partnership which selected the Los Angeles River Watershed as one of seven pilot locations to enhance existing work like the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan.

"The Los Angeles District is a strong supporter of revitalizing the river, with several on-going studies and potential projects that aim to restore riverside habitat, increase public access to the river and promote recreational opportunities," said Temple.

Military construction projects also hold great promise for the region.

"South Pacific Division's FY 12 budget is about \$1.2 billion, which is about \$200 million more than last year, with two significant MILCON projects at Fort Irwin accounting for most of that increase," said Temple. "Another highlight is that Los Angeles District estimates that they will award more than \$200 million to small businesses in FY 12."

River

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to river resources, helping restore and protect habitat and wildlife, educating and employing our youth, and assessing and helping safeguard water quality."

These programs will greatly benefit the vision laid out in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. Adopted in 2007, it offers the Los Angeles River as one of the greatest opportunities to revitalize the physical health of communities and the City as a whole.

"The U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers is a fully committed partner in Los Angeles River revitalization efforts, including the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan," said Toy.

The District will continue to provide engineering services, research and technical support to stakeholders during the planning, design, construction and operation of water resources and associated environmental infrastructure throughout the Los Angeles River Watershed Project.



California State Park Director Ruth Coleman (left) speaks with South Pacific Division Commander Col. Michael Wehr and Los Angeles District Deputy Engineer Brian Moore. (USACE photo by Dave Palmer)

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Dear District Teammates,

The winter holidays have long passed and all of us have just finished our first full month back on the job! Given the pace of operations since we've returned, I hope that each of you were able to take some much needed rest and relaxation beforehand. If the first few weeks of work are any indication of what's in store for the entire year, once again we will be extremely busy...but that is a good thing!

For me though, what I have noticed most more than anything since coming back to work is the fact that we have said "goodbye" to many of our long time employees. Last week, we bid farewell to Ms. Clotilde Blake in our EEO office and Ms. Terri Lynn Padilla in our Projects and Program Management Directorate. Both Clo and TL were valuable members of the district team and we wish them well as they move on to the next chapter of their lives. With their combined years of experience in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the task of replacing each of them is not easy. In fact, for every employee who has recently left our organization, replacing them will be difficult.

Despite these personnel challenges, we must continue to hire and invest in our *PEOPLE* so that the Los Angeles District will continue to provide outstanding service to the country as our Nation's Engineer. Over the past several months, Mr. Steve Dwyer and his intern team have done a wonderful job scouring the local colleges in search of "new talent" to bring to our district. You will be pleased to know that we have discovered many extremely qualified young men and women who have a keen interest in serving on our team. Recent job

fairs at USC, UCLA and Cal Poly Pomona have proven to be fertile recruiting grounds for the best and the brightest college students in the country. Later in the year, Steve and I will take our show on the road with recruiting visits to the University of Arizona and Arizona State University. Bottom line, the future looks bright for our incoming interns!

As many of you know, I have dubbed this fiscal year as "*THE YEAR OF TRAINING.*" This intense focus on training will also address the personnel challenges that we have recently been facing. I encourage each of you to talk to your raters, senior raters, and mentors and look for opportunities for personal growth and individual training in our district. With the recent departures of many of our senior leaders, there may be opportunities for you to move up in the organization. If you have any questions about training opportunities for the year, please contact our District Champion for Training, Dr. Josephine Axt, Chief of Planning Division.

Since 1898, our military personnel and Department of the Army Civilians have been faithfully serving our Nation. I have every reason to believe that we will continue to do so despite the recent departures of some of our long serving team members. With an infusion of new talent and a "training investment" in our current employees, we will continue Building Strong and Taking Care of People in the Los Angeles District!

Warm Regards,

COL Toy



Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District

BUILDING STRONG
and Taking Care of People!

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Corps talks FUDS with southern Arizona residents

By Daniel J. Calderón

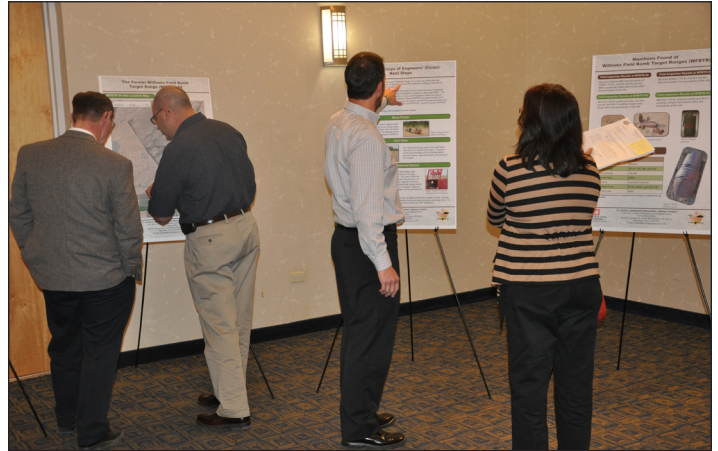
CASA GRANDE, Ariz. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District began clearing work Jan. 30 following a public involvement meeting the District hosted Jan. 26 to discuss the state of several of the former Williams Field Bomb Target Ranges.

The ranges are now considered Formerly Used Defense Sites. The meeting covered ranges #4, #9, #10 and #12. Each of the FUDS discussed in the meeting is located in Southern Arizona near the town of Florence or Casa Grande. Corps employees discussed how the District will be performing a remedial investigation and feasibility study, to include a treatability study and technology demonstration at the sites under the guidelines set forth in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. This allowed the District to come up with a proposed plan and a decision document for remedial action of the sites.

“We are doing a streamlined CERCLA process,” explained Jeff Armentrout, Los Angeles District FUDS Program Manager. “It’s an approach we’re trying to apply to former practice bomb ranges throughout the Southwest. This will allow us to conduct clearing operations more rapidly.”

Activity on the FUDS goes back before World War II. Construction began on what was first known as Higley Air Base in June 1941. In June 1942 it was renamed Williams Army Air Field and used by the West Coast Air Force Training Center for bombardier training. Later that year, construction on bomb targets, including graded roads, wooden pyramid target structures, oiled aiming circles, whitewashed gravel, and fencing began.

Bombardier cadets used sand-filled 100-pound M38A2 practice bombs for their bombardier training. By May 1942,



Members of the public view information provided to them at the Public Information Meeting held Jan. 26 in Casa Grande, Ariz. regarding actions by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District at several of the former Williams Field Bomb Target Ranges. The District is currently engaged in remedial investigation and feasibility study, to include a treatability study and technology demonstration at the sites. (USACE photo by Daniel J. Calderón)

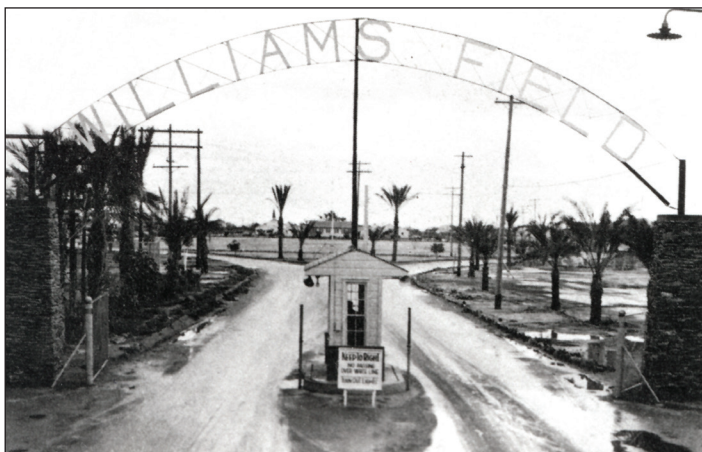
cadets were dropping an average of 2,000 100-pound practice bombs daily onto the Williams Field Bombing Targets.

In February 1943, Army Air Forces moved the Williams AAF Bombardier Training Program to Deming AAF in Deming, N. M. Combat pilots continued to train at Williams AAF until the end of 1943. In the fall of 1944, the Army Air Forces modified the training to include bombardment training and radar observer training using heavy bomber B-17s and B-24s instead of the previously used AT-9s. In 1945, aviators attending the Radar Observer School held at Williams AAF were required to drop five practice bombs. The range closed soon after. At the meeting, District team members spoke with members of the public about the history of the site and about actions involved in the District’s work in the area.

“We want the public to hear what we’re doing and we want to know what questions they have,” Armentrout explained. “We’ve had meetings with stakeholders and with major property owners. But, we want to make sure the public is informed and we want to know what concerns they have.”

In 1994, The Corps conducted preliminary inspections for all four sites. Based on these investigations, the sites were determined eligible for the FUDS program and the preliminary site boundaries were established. In 1997, Archives Search Reports for the sites compiled historical records, including ownership and land usage information. Site visits and community interviews were conducted in support of the ASRs. During the visits, inspectors found munitions debris from practice bombs, spotting charges and spent small-arms casings.

In 2004, ASR Supplements were completed for each site. The



This gate marked the entrance to the Williams Field Army Air Field in 1942. Since then, the base has closed and the site has been returned to the former owners. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District is currently conducting a Treatability Study/Technology Demonstration at several of the sites as part of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the formerly used defense sites. (Photo courtesy of Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Williams Campus)

— See FUDS, page 5 —

District commander helps students visualize a STEM life

By Jennie Ayala

LOS ANGELES — Col. Mark Toy, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, spoke with more than 90 Roosevelt Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) High School students Jan. 20 during a Viva Technology Day on campus.

As the guest speaker, the colonel seized the opportunity to lead the 10th grade students in a discussion about the significance of STEM education and careers, especially the opportunities within the Corps of Engineers.

"We're here because of STEM ... and to introduce you to some of the things we do in the Army Corps of Engineers where a STEM degree may be very helpful," said Toy.

After providing a brief insight into his educational and military background, Toy focused the students' attention to a Corps video that demonstrated the organization's missions and programs and highlighted the impacts of Corps projects in their everyday life.

Later he quizzed the students on the actual types of Corps careers or jobs one could enjoy with a STEM degree and passed out Viva dollars, incentives to the students who responded.

"What I'm really happy to see in this audience here is the fact that we have a lot of young ladies and to let you know that there are plenty of opportunities out there for you," said Toy.

Students had plenty of questions for the colonel, many of them dealt with his personal educational experiences and the opportunities they might take advantage of while they're in high school.

Earlier that morning, Corps mentors, financial manager

Margie Tizon and civil engineers, Reuben Sasaki and Damien Lariviere, joined local engineering and science college students as team captains and led the high school students through three STEM challenges. These included a telegraph communications challenge, a rocket launcher exercise and a dream challenge, requiring students to look ahead 30 years and create an invention, using STEM, to solve one of the world's problems.

Many of the post survey comments from students that day reflected a recurring theme: the challenges, activities and speakers at a Viva Technology program are motivating and exciting and all students should have the opportunity to experience it at least once.

"I hope that they (students) see the possibilities and that they see themselves as a Colonel Toy, or a civil engineer that comes to speak with them, that they can transport themselves to that person and say that can be me, that will be me, said Silvia Tovar, Roosevelt High School STEM principal.

The Viva Technology program is designed to engage inner-city and rural K-12 students, teachers and parents in the applications of technology in order to stimulate interest and academic achievement in math, science and engineering.

The workshop integrates competitive exercises with real success stories of minorities and women who are scientists, engineers, or other technical professionals.

Vivas are implemented by Great Minds in STEM, through the STEM Up program, as part of the STEM School Support Initiative Program funded by the Department of Defense and administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District.

FUDS

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supplements indicated one Munitions Response Site for each former target range and assigned a Risk Assessment Code score to each MRS. RAC scores are assigned on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most hazardous and 5 indicating the least hazardous or lowest risk. The scores are determined primarily by the types of munitions known or suspected to have been used at each MRS. WFBTR #4 was assigned a RAC score of 3, indicating moderate risk. WFBTR #9 was assigned a RAC score of 2, indicating elevated risk. WFBTR #10 was assigned a RAC score of 2, indicating elevated risk. WFBTR #12 was assigned a RAC score of 4, indicating low risk.

In 2007, Site Inspection teams completed their inspections for WFBTRs #4, #9, and #10. The SI for WFBTR #12 was completed in January 2009. During the SIs, a team conducted qualitative reconnaissance and collected soil samples to determine if each MRS warranted further inspection. The team's results of the samples at WFBTR #12 showed there was potential contamination in the surface soil; however, the screening level risk assessments concluded there was no risk or hazard to human health or the environment.

"The process is important because our biggest concern is to ensure the land is safe for public use," said Armentrout "We're

working with the streamlined process so we can close out the practice bomb target ranges much more quickly. If it goes as planned, the streamlined process will allow us to get the area to usable levels sooner."

This year, the District will conduct the remedial investigation and feasibility study portion of the process at WFBTR #4, #9, #10, and #12 throughout February. The District will perform treatability studies and technology demonstrations at each site to conduct a surface clearance of potential hazards using three innovative technologies on approximately 65.8 acres of former bomb target training areas.

"I think the meeting was very valuable," said Tony Solano, operations manager for Electrical District No. 3, a local company that will be working to service their customers' electrical needs in the area. "This is really the best way to get people together so the public can get answers to any of their questions. The Corps put out good information and now people should know what to do if they encounter anything."

At the meeting, the Corps had information reminding members of the public of the three Rs of explosive safety – Recognize, Retreat and Report. The District will post the results in the local public libraries and on its website. More information on FUDS activities and processes is available at https://environment.usace.army.mil/what_we_do/fuds/.

Division commander holds town hall meeting



More than 300 Los Angeles District employees gathered for their first town hall meeting with South Pacific Division Commander Col. Mike Wehr. (USACE photo by Dave Palmer)

By Dave Palmer

LOS ANGELES — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division Commander Col. Mike Wehr visited the Los Angeles District and conducted a town hall meeting with more than 300 Corps employees at the Sheraton Downtown Jan. 12.

To start the meeting, District Commander Col. Mark Toy took the opportunity to recognize four key players from the recent Department of Defense Command Cyber Readiness Inspection.

"I really wanted to take advantage of the opportunity, of the fact, that we had our

Division commander here to help celebrate and thank our people for all the things that they do," said Toy.

The District received a rating of "excellent" in the five-day inspection held in December. Lt. Col. Steven Sigloch and Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Koontz were awarded the Army Achievement Medal and civilians Ned Araujo and Mark Paytas were presented the Army Certificate of Achievement as well as on-the-spot cash awards.

"It takes a lot of individuals working hard, many of whom are in the audience today, to prepare all of us for what was going on," said Toy. "We in

the District want to take the time to reward people and recognize people not on their last day on the job, but when they do great efforts."

Wehr started his talk by also thanking the District employees for their efforts.

"When you look back at the commanders (District), the people that come through and get to lead, are all trained by each of you, in one way or another and I am no different," said Wehr. "My job, I think, is to lead the Division so it adds value and I learn from each of you and a great team."

Earlier in the day, Wehr and Toy participated in a ceremony that indentified the Los Angeles River Watershed as one of seven projects under

the pilot program Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

"What struck me immediately, each of the speakers, from the Secretary (of the Interior Ken Salazar) to the elected congressmen and women; they all immediately identified the Corps as a staunch partner" said Wehr. "And, a lot of that is based on the attitude that you carry in what is the art of the possible."

Wehr is no stranger to the region. He grew up near Sacramento, was commissioned a second lieutenant through ROTC at Santa Clara University in 1985 and served as a lieutenant at Fort Ord in the 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat) of the 7th Infantry Division (Light).



Lt. Col. Steve Sigloch was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for his lead role in preparing the District for the Command Cyber Readiness Inspection in December. (USACE photo by Dave Palmer)



EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Judge Joe Brown Highlights Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Events



Speaking to District employees, famed host of the syndicated “Judge Joe Brown Show,” cited education and family as two areas where the United States falls far short of what it can and should be. (USACE photo by Dave Palmer)

By Greg Fuderer

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles District celebrated the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday with a January 10 visit to the District’s downtown headquarters from Judge Joe Brown, who engaged the audience with a wide-ranging talk that addressed education, family, the criminal justice system and the influence of celebrity on today’s society.

“We get speakers who bring things to light to those not in the African-American culture,” said Matthews Turner, a member of the Black Employment Program Committee, the organization that arranged for the judge to speak.

“Judge Brown did that,” Turner said, “and he left us with quite a few questions.”

Brown, host of the syndicated “Judge Joe Brown Show,” cited education and family as two areas where the United States falls far short of what it can and should be.

“Our education system is deplorable,” he said. “China has eleven times the number of college graduates as the U.S. India has nine times as many, Pakistan seven.”

Brown said many of the nation’s immigration laws prevent those educated in America from staying.

“They go back to their home countries and open businesses and hire people there,” he said. “They could be doing that here in the U.S. Dr. King said we should open the country to everybody. Think about all the resources you’ll have available to you.”

Brown talked about the disintegration of the nuclear family as a major source of concern for the development of the nation’s youth.

“Forty-one per cent of U.S. citizens under 30 are illegitimate,” he said. “We have a lack of fathers raising children, especially boys.”

Brown said the lack of a male authority figure in many households, and the attitude of a large number of single mothers toward the fathers of their children, is a difficult obstacle for

many young boys to overcome.

“They don’t have someone they respect teaching them what it’s like to be a man, what his responsibilities are,” Brown said.

He said those difficulties often result in a disrespect for authority, which can lead to many undesirable consequences, including crime. When that happens, Brown said, young people can end up in a system that treats the symptoms, but not the causes of the behavior. He cited what he said were a number of incentives for profit to be made from the incarceration of people without a corresponding focus on how to address the issues of why they are there or what to do to prevent recidivism.

“What’s wrong with the criminal justice system is that it’s too efficient at what it does,” he said. “But it doesn’t control crime.”

He said the system is “often used as a surplus labor control device, because our country has not engaged in the long range planning to put ordinary working Americans, the Archie Bunkers, into the future where he will have a viable income doing a meaningful job. We do not address that.”

While most people are aware of him because of his television show, Judge Brown possesses an impressive judicial resume. Following graduation from the University of California at Los Angeles Law School, Brown became the first African-American prosecutor in the city of Memphis and later opened his own law practice before becoming a judge on the State Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tenn.

“When Dr. King was assassinated, I was a senior at UCLA. I never imagined I would hear his case in my courtroom,” Brown said, referring to his appointment as the presiding judge in James Earl Ray’s final appeal over his conviction for the assassination of Martin Luther King.

Brown said there were elements of the evidence presented that concerned him, and he ordered additional testing on the alleged murder weapon. He said the rifling on the bullet and that obtained from the rifle “wasn’t even close.”

“I have my own idea, but I don’t think we’ll ever know for sure,” he said. “I believe it was a gross miscarriage of justice.”

Brown told attendees that the nation celebrates holidays in honor of three individuals: Washington, Lincoln and King.

“Washington was instrumental in the foundation of the nation, Lincoln its unification, preservation and permanence,” he said. “Dr. King was the soul of the nation. He helped us actualize the rights that are guaranteed in the Constitution, rights that are held too lightly by too many of today’s citizens.”

But he cautioned listeners that too many “have taken rights as license. The Army used to have a slogan, ‘Be all you can be.’ I think it’s more appropriate to say ‘Be all you should be.’ There’s a difference.”

Knowing there is a difference and taking appropriate steps to make a better choice was a central theme of Brown’s address.

“We do African-American history the wrong way,” Brown said. Instead of merely listing the accomplishments of and contributions made by African-Americans, Brown said, we should ask ourselves, “What is its meaning? What lessons did we learn?”

That message can be applied in all aspects of our lives.

BUILDING WELLNESS

Wellness Center Class Schedule

By Cecy Ordonez

LOS ANGELES - Great news wellness fans!

Since so many of you, who voted, were equally interested in morning Yoga classes and afternoon Yoga - Spin classes, the Occupational Health and Safety office agreed to fund an additional class two times per week.

There will be a Tuesday and Thursday Yoga class from 7-8 a.m. and Spinning on Tuesday and Yoga on Thursday from 4-5 p.m.

In the meantime, Monique will continue to teach the Monday and Wednesday 11:30 a.m. Yoga class.

I have also incorporated a Zumba class on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 to noon. Zumba is a Latin-inspired, easy to follow, calorie-burning, dance fitness-party.

Come join me and you'll see what I mean. You don't have to know how to dance, just follow my lead. It's easy!

Join us at the Wellness Center! I guarantee you will de-stress and have fun.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00—8:00		Yoga Monique		Yoga Monique	
11:30—12:00	Vinyasa Yoga Monique	Zumba Cecy	Vinyasa Yoga Monique	Zumba Cecy	
12:00—12:30	Restorative Yoga Monique	Boxing/Table Tennis	Restorative Yoga Monique	Boxing/Table Tennis	
4:00—5:00		Spinning Andrea		Yoga Andrea	



February: Heart Awareness Month

By Cecy Ordonez

LOS ANGELES - Did you know that heart disease is the number one cause of death? About every 25 seconds, an American will have a coronary event and about one in every minute will die from it. Don't let it be you! Here are two simple things you can do to bring awareness:

Friday, Feb. 3 is National Wear Red Day, a day when Americans nationwide will wear red to show their support for women's heart disease awareness (women fall victim to heart attacks more often than men and has been the #1 killer of women for many years). Wear your favorite red shirt, tie or dress for an

opportunity to unite in this lifesaving awareness movement. Have your co-workers, friends and family join in on the fun.

Go to <http://mylifecheck.heart.org/AssessmentTools2> to complete the American Heart Association's test called "Life's Simple 7 Success Plan." Its an assessment that is based on the knowledge and expertise of the American Heart Association. It looks at seven factors that effect heart health, including: smoking, weight, physical activity, healthy diet, blood pressure, blood cholesterol and blood sugar. The results of the assessment will help you understand what simple steps you may need to take to improve your heart health and quality of life. After completing the test, you will be directed to specific action plans that will help you get informed, change your behaviors and move you closer to your individual health goals.



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SAFETY

We are not doing well with driving safety!!

By Steve McCombs

LOS ANGELES — Normally I would not repeat a subject so soon, but this is one of those times when it's necessary. We've had a dramatic increase in government vehicle accidents lately and there are a few things everyone needs to know.

Sometimes when I am out on a project and the contractor is not following the safety rules, I will remind them that if Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspectors were to come on to the site and write them up for safety violations, they could be writing some pretty big checks to pay the fines. Normally I don't like to go negative, but sometimes they need a reminder. So here are some facts you may not be aware of with regards to how the system works when you have an accident in a government owned vehicle.

1. When you are in a GOV accident, the government can hold you liable for the damages. Let's say you are in a collision and found "at fault." Once all the investigations are concluded, and you are found liable, you may be required to pay for the damages. If you can't afford to simply write a fat check to the U.S. Treasury, part of your paycheck can be withheld until the bill is paid. Keep in mind; even a minor collision can cause thousands of dollars in damage.

2. Even though the Federal Government is "self-insured," you are still responsible for collecting the damages yourself. Here's how it works. Someone hits your GOV and it's their fault; the GOV is damaged and you are injured. Well, guess what? You will have to get a lawyer and file the lawsuit against the other driver, then reimburse the government from the lawsuit award. If you are required to do this by the Worker's

Compensation Office and you refuse, the government can withhold the medical payments for your care. Title 5, U.S. Code, §8131 is the law regarding this matter.

3. Did you know that if you're found to be in willful violation of the regulations governing the authorized use of a GOV, the minimum period of suspension without pay is one month? DoD 4600.36-R is where this language exists. Page 11 of the Directive is where you'll find the information. Active Duty members can be charged as well, under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Another area where we are not doing well is driving within the speed limit. Most of our vehicles have Global Positioning System tracking devices that collect all sorts of data. Just since Oct. 1, 2011, the GPS system has identified hundreds of incidents throughout the District where the measured vehicle speed was exceeding 80 MPH! This could qualify as one of those "violations of the regulations governing authorized use of a GOV" mentioned up



above.

So I have a favor to ask each and every one of you reading this article. Please ensure everyone in your office, who drives a GOV, reads it as well. Do yourself and your coworkers a favor by spreading the word. We must get better with our driving safety and lower the risk to everyone.

Speaking of which - did you know that auto manufacturers will provide free seat belt extensions for vehicles less than 5 years old, where the operator has trouble fitting into the seat-belt? If you are having this problem, look in the Owner's Manual for your vehicle and then contact your dealership. For older vehicles, you can purchase an extender for around \$40.00.

As always, drive safe, drive sober and buckle up!!

Army Civilian Corps Creed

I am an Army Civilian - a member of the Army Team

I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and Civilians

I will always support the mission

I provide stability and continuity during war and peace

I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to serve our Nation and our Army

I live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage

I am an Army Civilian

Contractors meet and greet over new Fort Irwin hospital



Artist rendering of the new Fort Irwin hospital. A solicitation notice for the \$270 million project was issued on Dec. 23, 2011, and offerors have until Feb. 14 to submit their proposals.

By Brooks O. Hubbard IV

BARSTOW, Calif. — The Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce, along with officials from the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, held a day-long industry meet and greet and project overview for the Fort Irwin Replacement Hospital here Jan. 18.

A solicitation notice for the \$270 million project was issued on Dec. 23, 2011, and offerors have until Feb. 14 to submit their proposals.

The event was held at the Cora Harper Fitness Center and was attended by more than 240 area contractors. Officials from the Corps and the Fort Irwin community provided a general overview of the project and site tour for the new facility.

“With the downturn in the housing market, we had a lot of contractors find themselves unemployed,” said Carol Randall, Economic Chairperson for the Barstow Chamber of Commerce.

“With this event, this project gives a chance to workers to come back to work as well as create jobs for those

who haven’t been working,” said Randall.

The new 216,000 square foot facility will replace the current 40-year-old hospital. When completed, the facility is designed to achieve a LEED platinum rating, the first hospital in the Army to achieve this prestigious rating. The groundbreaking for the new facility is scheduled for early summer.

Col. Michael Kiefer, Fort Irwin’s Medical Department Activity commander welcomed the opportunity to meet with potential contractors and talk to them

about the new hospital.

“The new hospital is going to replace the old facility and other post medical facilities that we currently have in our inventory,” said Kiefer. “It’s going to centralize all post health services in one location.”

The replacement hospital is the first facility of several large scale construction projects at the fort that the Corps is managing. That translates to jobs and an economic boost to the surrounding communities.

Col. Mark Toy, commander of the Corps’ Los Angeles

District greeted the event attendees and invited them to become partners in this project.

“Creating opportunities for our partner contractors is really important to our District,” said Toy. “It’s all part of our district’s ‘Building Strong and Taking Care of People’ motto.”

The replacement hospital is slated to provide new tertiary care, emergency medicine and clinical support activities for servicemembers and their families as well as a large rotating training force that deploys to the Mojave Desert base.

After the presentation, contractors mingled and discussed possible partnerships and job possibilities for the project. Offerors then proceeded to the project site where they were allowed to walk the area.

The presolicitation number W912PL-12-R-0008, was posted to the Federal Business Opportunities website (Fedbizops.gov). Further instructions and project information will be posted to the site for review.



Randi Elder, a project manager with the Los Angeles District’s Fort Irwin Office, (center, white sport coat) briefs potential offerors about the Fort Irwin Replacement Hospital during a site visit. The Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce, along with officials from the National Training Center, Fort Irwin and the District, held a day-long meet and greet and project overview for the Fort Irwin Replacement Hospital. (USACE photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV)

SECURITY

ID Cards proof of identity and first layer of defense

By Security and Law Enforcement Office

LOS ANGELES — Our workplaces, whether in downtown LA or rural Tolleson, Ariz., contain sensitive and vulnerable assets, often vital to the safety and security of our communities, even our country. People (our most valuable asset), equipment and facilities must be protected from attack, intelligence gathering and criminal activity. Restricting access is the first layer of defense.

A proper personnel identification system identifies those who have a need to enter and leave an area and also detects unauthorized personnel who attempt to gain entry.

Visitors to our facilities must be screened, display a temporary or visitor badge at all times and be escorted.

Visitors are required to sign-in and present a valid form of identification with a receptionist or guard.

Acceptable forms of identification include Military ID (or CAC Card), Passport, Driver's License or Local, State or Federal Government ID.

For visits to the 915 Wilshire offices, a notice of visitors should be provided to the Security and Law Enforcement Office at least 24 hours in advance of visit. Security will verify the visitor's identity through proper credentials. Visitors will sign in providing a record of the visitor and the time, location and duration of the visit.

If you expect visitors at 915 Wilshire, promptly notify Security and be sure to remind the visitors to bring proper ID and report to the Security Office. Following these simple procedures will help protect our facilities and ourselves.



Division commander's visit highlights area harbors role in security and economy



Jeff Cole (left) explains to Col. Mike Wehr, commander of the South Pacific Division, the proposal Los Angeles County has made requesting the Los Angeles District accept their contribution of funds for additional dredging and beneficial reuse of material from the Federal navigation channel at Marina del Rey Harbor to be transported for placement at Redondo Beach, which is owned and maintained by the County.



Jim Fields (left) describes to Col. Wehr the ongoing projects in San Pedro Bay. During Wehr's visit the Port of Los Angeles gave a presentation on their Capital Improvement Program and Port of Long Beach and the City of Long Beach discussed their future plans. The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are among the largest in the nation. (USACE photos by Dave Palmer)

HUMAN RESOURCES

New Application Process - USA Staffing

Summer 2011, South Pacific Division began using USA Staffing as our automated staffing tool, taking the place of Resumix, to build vacancy announcements, receive applications, and manage applicant lists. With these changes came new application procedures for Army Jobs announced under USA Staffing. The new application procedures require additional documents to be submitted with your application package.

A complete application includes:

1. Resume - submit your current, updated resume which shows time periods for each period of employment to include the month and year and how many hours per week you worked in that particular period of employment (i.e. HRS per week and month/year to month/year or HRS per week and month/year to present). Resumes that do not contain this information will be marked as insufficient and applicants may not receive consideration for the position. If you submit a resume with inappropriate material, such as photos, you will not be considered for the vacancy.

2. Occupational Questionnaire - complete the occupational questionnaire at the time you apply for the position. You are able to view the occupational questionnaire from the vacancy announcement. This allows you to provide an assessment of the level of skills you possess as they pertain to the advertised position. For each response of "E" (expert or supervisory), you will need to indicate what position(s) on your resume supports this response (include title, organization & date). If you fail to include this information, your application will be considered incomplete and you will be removed from consideration for this position.

3. Supplemental Documentation - submit supporting documentation to verify your eligibility to apply under the vacancy announcements identified "Who may apply". Be sure to carefully read the required documents section of the vacancy announcement. (Supplemental documents may include, but are not limited to: Transcripts, SF-50s, licenses, documents to support veterans' preference, and/or documents to support military spouse preference).

The system will send an email when you have successfully submitted your Occupational Questionnaire. Please read the message carefully! This notification clearly states that the Occupational Questionnaire was received and that in many cases this "...does NOT complete your application." The notice directs you in capital letters to "read and follow the instructions in the vacancy announcement."

To view Army vacancy announcements, visit: www.armycivilianservice.com or www.usajobs.gov

If you have issues when applying for vacancies, look at the right side of the screen:

Questions about this job:

Central Resume Processing Center

Phone: (410)306-0137

Email: applicanthelp@conus.army.mil



38th CSA Marching Orders



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ❖ Army Values – Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage are the hallmarks of our Army Profession. We must live them in all we do.
- ❖ Warrior Ethos – every Soldier is a Warrior and lives by our ethos, which binds us together as a band of brothers and sisters.
- ❖ Army Family Covenant – the Army Family is a special family like no other; we will never waver on the care and support commensurate with their service and sacrifice.
- ❖ The Army is a Team of Teams – active and reserve, Soldier and Civilian, with alignment of authority, responsibility and accountability.
- ❖ Train as you Fight – make it realistic and challenging, even when deployed.
- ❖ High Standards and Discipline – these are the heart and soul of great units.
- ❖ Comprehensive Fitness – we must build and maintain resilience across all five dimensions of strength.
- ❖ Responsible Stewardship – our future security rests upon our careful and deliberate management of resources, energy, water, and the environment.
- ❖ Composite Risk Management – practice it 24/7, both on and off duty, for Soldiers, Families, and Civilians alike.



LEADER EXPECTATIONS

- ❖ Have a vision and lead change
- ❖ Be your formation's moral and ethical compass
- ❖ Learn, think, and adapt
- ❖ Balance risk and opportunity to retain the initiative
- ❖ Build agile, effective, high performing teams
- ❖ Empower subordinates and underwrite risk
- ❖ Develop bold, adaptive, and broadened leaders
- ❖ Communicate – up, down, and laterally; tell the whole story



People are our Army

THE ROLE OF THE ARMY

The purpose of the U.S. Army is to fight and win our Nation's wars. Warfighting is our primary mission. Everything that we do should be grounded in this fundamental principle. It is imperative that we be responsive to Combatant Commanders as part of the Joint Force. We do this by rapidly dominating any operational environment and providing decisive results across a full range of missions. Interoperability and close coordination with our coalition partners remains vital in this regard. Our strategic framework is guided by three principal and interconnected roles:

- ❖ **PREVENT:** The Army prevents conflict by maintaining credibility based on capacity, readiness and modernization. It averts miscalculations by potential adversaries.
- ❖ **SHAPE:** The Army shapes the environment by sustaining strong relationships with other Armies, building their capacity, and facilitating strategic access.
- ❖ **WIN:** If prevention fails, the Army rapidly applies its combined arms capabilities to dominate the environment and win decisively.

THOUGHTS ON THE WAY FORWARD

Over the past ten years of continuous combat, our Army has proven itself in some of the toughest environments we have ever faced. Leaders at every level displayed unparalleled ingenuity, flexibility and adaptability. Soldiers embodied mental and physical toughness and courage under fire. Our Army has transformed into the most seasoned, flexible, rapidly deployable, and spirited land force in the world today.

While we cannot predict the future of our increasingly uncertain and complex strategic environment, we can be certain that our Nation will continue to call on America's Army. Going forward, we will be an Army in transition. An Army that will apply the lessons learned in recent combat as we transition to evolving threats and strategies. An Army that will remain the best manned, best equipped, best trained, and best led force as we transition to a leaner, more agile force that remains adaptive, innovative, versatile and ready as part of Joint Force 2020.

I am humbled by your steadfast dedication, outstanding professionalism, and incredible esprit de corps. Respect our traditions as you achieve excellence. It is an honor to serve in your ranks – you have my absolute trust and confidence. Thank you for willingly serving our Nation. *Army Strong!*

-----original signed-----

General Raymond T. Odierno
38th Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

Meeting the Needs of the Nation

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Welcome Home



Amy Holmes currently works in Los Angeles as an Archaeologist. She deployed to Afghanistan Engineer District-North, Kabul, Afghanistan from Nov. 28, 2010 to Dec. 17, 2011.

While deployed, she served as Program Manager for the Commander's Emergency Response Program and as Deputy of the Military Construction Program.

When asked why she volunteered to deploy, she said, "I deployed to challenge myself professionally, grow my Corps skill set, selfless service, and to see how the Corps operates in a contingency environment."

Her most memorable moments were flying in Blackhawk helicopters, rolling MRAPs and humvees; touring the Detention Facility in Parwan (Bagram Airfield); and visiting the 5th century B.C. Buddhist archaeological site of Mes Aynak.

Her most challenging task was representing the United States Army at meetings for the Mes Aynak project where others at the table included members of the Afghanistan Government, U.S. Embassy, Chinese developers and French archaeologists. Four languages were being translated. Amy has no plans to redeploy anytime soon.

Sandra Sherman deployed to Afghanistan as an Administrative Support Assistant from May 29 to Dec. 8, 2011.

She said the best part of the deployment was "doing something different" even though many of her duties were similar to those here in the District, as well as the salary she was able to earn.

She said the worst part of the deployment was having to go outside to the bathroom.

When asked if she would deploy again, she said, "Maybe later on."



Geoffrey Taft currently works as a Construction Control Representative. He deployed to Afghanistan from July to October 2011.

His tour was shortened due a medical curtailment. He injured his knee while on leave in Germany.

Geoff described his duties while deployed as a Construction Control Representative as updating daily reports, conducting site visits, and assisting in meetings with contractors.

When asked about his reason for deploying, he said, "to help rebuild Afghanistan." When asked to reflect on his experiences during deployment, he said the most memorable part of the tour of duty is how well people worked together in USACE.

He hopes to deploy again soon and has submitted his request for a tasker in Afghanistan.



Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District

BUILDING STRONG
and Taking Care of People!



NEW EMPLOYEES TO THE DISTRICT



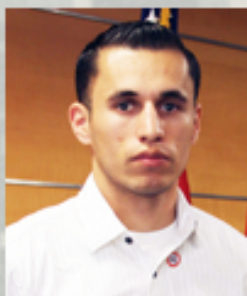
Thomas Gulihur, AM



SFC Steven Martin, FEST



Robbie Shum, PM



Raymond Jimenez, CD



Phillip Serpa Jr., CD



MAJ Seth Wacker, FEST



MAJ Charles Seaberry, CT



Lynnette Solorio, PM



Kristen Bedolla, ED



Karl Ahlen, PM



Julie Witt, OC



James Goodykoontz, CD



Felicia Hurst, CT



Deanna Wilson, ED



CPT Jonathan Parot, CD

FINAL WORD

Short month, big love, lots of music

By Daniel J. Calderón

So, it's February again and love is in the air. Or, it should be, right? After all, Valentine's Day is this month and the florists are in full swing. The stores are chock full of sweets to soften the hearts of beloveds across the country. And there are more love songs requested on the nation's radio stations at this time than are heard through most of the year. Each one either promises eternal affection or bemoans a lost love (among my favorites of this latter category is Coldplay's "Viva la Vida") and will likely bring tears of either joy or anguish to listeners everywhere.

But why? What is it all about? What is "this lunacy called, 'love,' this mad distemper that strikes down both beggar and king," as Merlin refers to it in "Excalibur"?

I don't think anyone really knows.

Love is a word thrown around pretty liberally. "Oh, I love this dress," or "Wow, I love this pizza," or "Hey, I love what you've done with your hair," are pretty commonplace phrases. In movies, love is reduced to formulaic comedies about two people who can't ever see themselves together. But, they happen to be the stars of the movie so we all know there will be contrivances to make them "fall in love" somehow. So, in a lot of ways, the notion of love has lost its luster since it's become so easy to acquire.

But is it? I don't think so. Real love isn't the romantic ideal portrayed in popular culture and it isn't something that comes cheaply or easily. Love is out there to be found; but, it takes a depth of commitment most people don't realize they're investing in when they use the word.

In another of my favorite love songs, "Love is Love," love is pretty much everything. "Love is nothing without you," is part of how they describe it. And, I think that's pretty much an easy summation. Anyone who truly is in love understands that their own place in the world is a full one; but, that person also understands that they are part of a greater whole. Without that person who is beloved, the world would be less rich, less right.

There are many kinds of love. There's love of a spouse, a significant other, kids, parents and friends – just to name a few. Each "brand" of love does produce different emotional and physical responses. I'll stick with spouse (or significant other) for starters. It's one of the easiest and one of the most confusing. It's the one the songs and the movies focus on. So, it's the one that's actually pretty misunderstood.

Some think because you're in love with someone, you're somehow incomplete without that other person, that somehow life is not livable on your own and that you spend your whole life searching for that individual who will somehow "fix" or "complete" your existence. I don't think that is so.

Love is more than that. If you spend your whole life waiting for someone to make you feel complete, then you end up being a needy, incomplete person. I think in order to truly

love someone, you have to be a complete person on your own. You have to be able to stand on your own two feet and take on the world. Granted, only in rare instances will you have to do that. It's more likely that you'll have friends and family who will stand with you against the world. Then again, if the world really was after me, I can think of some cousins who would probably say they've never heard of me; but, that's beside the point.

Love for a spouse or significant other is the kind that is felt at an odd sort of level. It's not always known in the head. Honestly, it's rarely felt there. It's the kind of thing you feel in the middle of your stomach when you get an unexpected glance from that person. You feel a fluttery kind of sensation and you can sense some connection. It's not because you're incomplete. It's because you fit together.

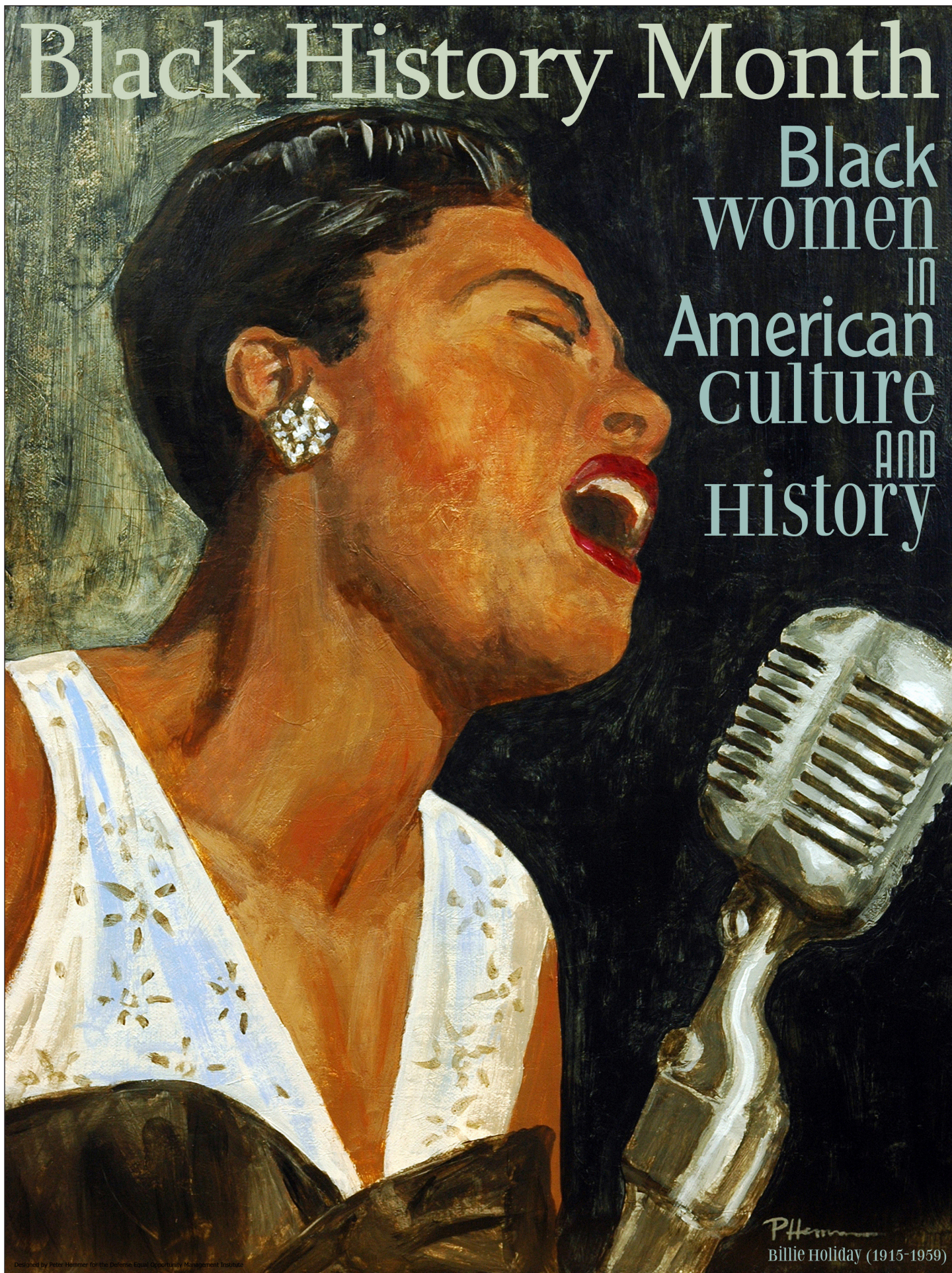
Rarely is it instantaneous. Granted, there is some kind of instinctual pull to that person. But, it's just the beginning. Love grows. People marvel when I tell them my wife and I have been married nearly 17 years and I think that's pretty sad. I think it's sad that being married for a long time is unusual. I think it's sad that divorce is pretty cheap and commonplace. I think part of that is because people expect love to be this sun-hot thing that burns constantly and fills them with a sense of being complete.

They see it as children do, as songs try to portray, as movies try to make it. Songs, movies and TV shows have to show love in a certain way. They don't have the time to go over the work involved in making a loving relationship last. If you've only got four minutes to talk about love, are you going to talk about the arguments, the discussions over who gets which side of the bed at a hotel or the interminable back and forth over who last had the remote control when it mysteriously disappears? Love is all those things, though. Love is good and bad. It really is all encompassing and all the more powerful for its near-omnipresent faculties.

In 1967, The Troggs (the same group that did "Wild Thing") put out a neat little song called, "Love is all around." If you haven't heard it, take a listen. It's not great poetry, not anything that will likely change the world; but, it's a simple statement of what love can be. It's all over the place. The love you feel for that special someone does infuse your everyday life, making it richer. If you want something to compare it to, think of it like 4-D super HDTV for your soul.

So, can I live without love? Yeah, I'm sure I could. I can live with the memory of what it was and how it made me feel. I can live without that kind of closeness and I can live without that kind of acceptance. Like Simon and Garfunkel sang, "I have my books and my poetry to protect me," so I know I can make it on my own. I also know I can technically survive without my arms, legs or eyes. I can make a life for myself if I choose to get rid of those parts of me as well. You can too. But, why would you want to? Just a thought...





Black History Month

Black women in American culture and History

P. Hammer

Billie Holiday (1915-1959)

Designed by Peter Hammer for the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute