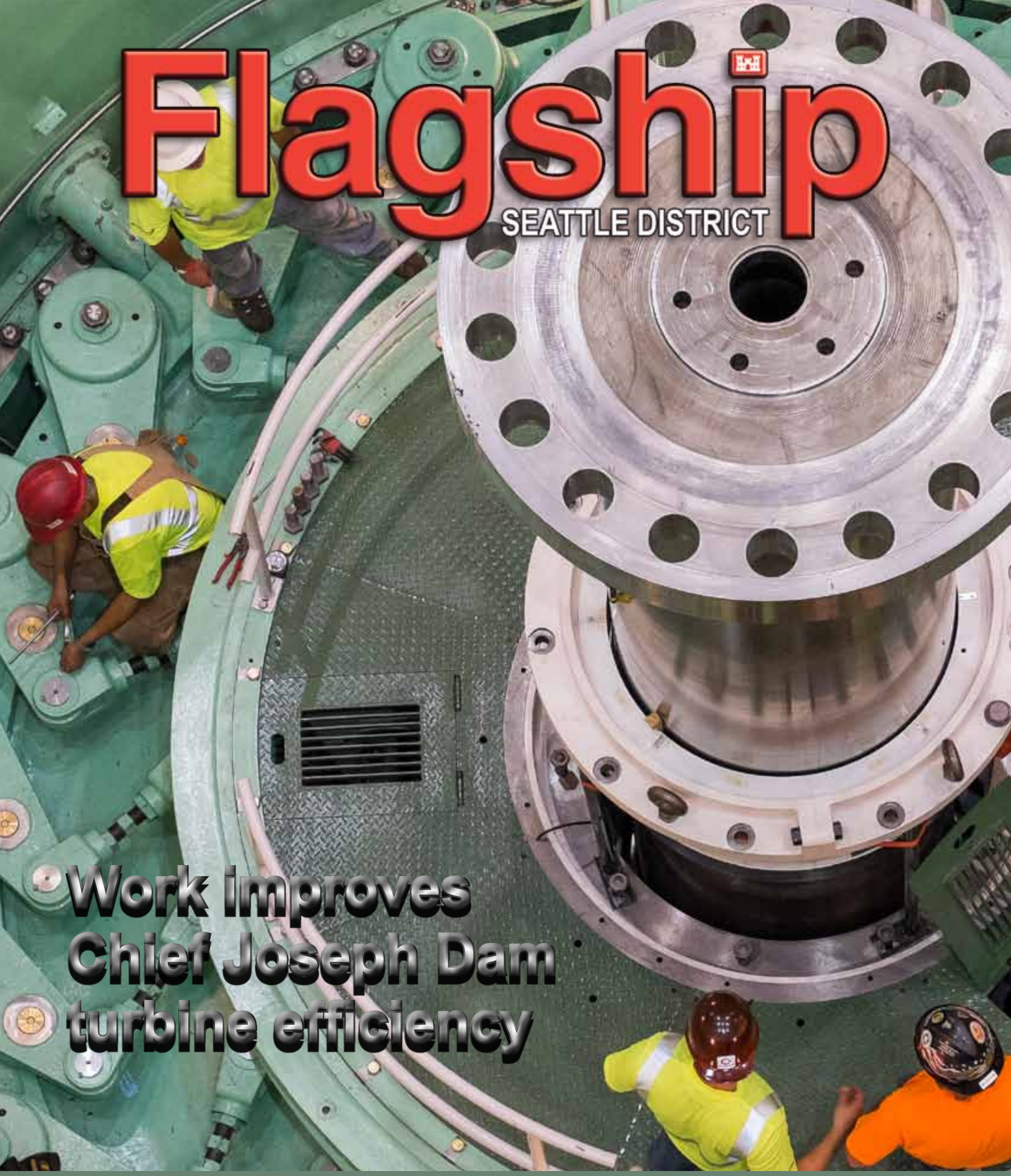
Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT



Work improves Chief Joseph Dam turbine efficiency

inside

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Volume XXX No. 3

Alisa Ralph: This Flagship is for you

Alisa Ralph is the Regulatory Branch's Special Programs Section chief. She is retiring in December after 32 years of outstanding service to a number of government agencies in several countries. During the past seven years, Alisa managed a long list of regulatory program challenges with great professionalism, grace and unshakeable fortitude. Her calm, caring, can-do presence was a model of public service; she will be greatly missed.

Alisa Ralph, this Flagship is for you.

Cover:

Turbine runner replacement project is in full swing at Chief Joseph Dam

Alstom Hydro workers set the wicket gate linkage on Unit 7 at Chief Joseph Dam in Bridgeport, Wash. The work is part of an effort to refurbish 16 units and improve turbine efficiency to greater than 95 percent, increasing power production by nearly 450,000 mega-watt hours. Chief Joseph Dam is the nation's second largest producer of hydropower. The value of the electricity produced at Chief Joseph Dam is about $450 million annually. (Corps photo by Jeff Katz)

Flagship

Col. John G. Buck, Commander
Patricia Graesser, Chief, Public Affairs
Tanya King, Editor
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Bill Dowell, Contributor
Scott Lawrence, Contributor

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Back to the future

commentary

It's great to be back in the Pacific Northwest and to join the Seattle District team again. I am honored to assume command of the Seattle District and appreciate your help with my transition.

In my 23 years in the Army, I've had varied assignments and numerous deployments around the world. I previously served in Seattle District as a project manager from 2001-2003, with a deployment to Afghanistan in the middle.

I know first-hand from serving in your ranks previously that the Seattle District is made up of a group of extraordinary professionals focused on public service to the Pacific Northwest and nation in peace and war. As I've made my first trips out across the district to see you in action my initial impressions are of your tremendous professionalism and dedication.

Since my return here I've had the pleasure of visiting some sites that highlight our successes. I enjoyed the ribbon cutting for Burien's Seahurst Park beach restoration project, toured the Joint Base Lewis-McChord cross-base highway and wastewater treatment plant sites and the spillway gate replacement project at the Chittenden Locks. I've also visited places we face challenges, including the fish trap facility at Buckley and Brewster, Wash., near Chief Joseph Dam, where several of our folks are working to rebuild after losing their homes to wildfires.

My initial priorities since arriving here have been civil works milestone execution, military construction project awards, budgeting for FY15, carrying out construction projects, taking care of people, setting up the district with strong workload for the future, and as always doing it all safely. Now I'm focused on setting a fast pace of execution in FY15 and capturing opportunities to build a strong future, while taking time to celebrate successes along the way.

What you should know about what is important to me is maintaining a family/work life balance, seeing others grow and learn, providing and supporting mentorship, supporting your personal success and recognizing and rewarding achievements.

I look to you to show respect for each other, keep a positive attitude, be team players, show pride of ownership, honor commitments, communicate promptly and openly and look for smart ways to gain efficiencies.

What you can expect from me is to lead the team – set priorities and conditions - and allocate resources appropriately. I want the district to serve a regional role and to cultivate external relationships and partnerships. I will ask questions to learn, and I will seek different perspectives before making decisions. I look to establish a command climate of trust and respect. My intent is to offer you an open door and be approachable.

Seattle District Commander Col. John G. Buck

On a personal note, my background is that I'm originally from Deposit, New York, just north of the Pennsylvania border. I'm a civil engineer and attended the U.S. Military Academy and later Penn State for graduate school. I've been married to my wife, Kim, for 19 years, and our children, Owen and Abby, attend Ballard High School.

Our family is pleased to get another opportunity to live and work in the Northwest as part of the larger Seattle District family.

You have continuously solved our nation's hardest problems, from disaster response, environmental restoration, protecting people and property while powering our nation's economy through our water resources. I look forward to continuing to work alongside each of you in partnership with our local partners, stakeholders, governments and Tribal Nations to accomplish our diverse mission.

in person

Faces from the

Maj. Tobin Flin

Story and Photos By
Transatlantic Afghanistan District

`Maj. Tobin Flinn led an eight-person team whose mission was spread over southern and western Afghanistan.

Supporting three regional commands across 1,400 square miles kept him busy, but it wasn't enough to keep him from missing his wife Melanie and their four children, Lucas, Sage, Roman and Evangeline.

"I miss my family with all my heart, yet they are with me every day," said Flinn. "They are the world's greatest gift."

In Afghanistan, the one military member and six U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilians he led was his deployed family. As a team, they laughed and wept together, and sometimes they even shook their fists at one another. However, according to Flinn, these experiences have allowed him to grow as an engineer and as a military officer.

"I'm grateful for these experiences and the people who helped orchestrate them," he said.

One of the people to whom he owed a debt of gratitude was former Seattle District Commander Col. Bruce Estok. Flinn's team, the 34th Forward Engineering Support Team, falls under the Seattle District when not deployed and he said Estok offered an unassuming unique perspective to his most complex dilemmas. Estok began providing guidance when Flinn took command of the 34th FEST two years ago, although the FEST sported an "-Afghanistan" identifier while they were deployed.

"While in theater, Brig. Gen. Michael Wehr was

Afgha

BUILDING

front:

n

Corps photo by Bill Dowell

Maj. Tobin Flinn, 34th FEST-A Commander, worked with Regional Command Southwest, the Middle East District, and local contractors to help design and construct an Afghan National Army Trauma Center in Helmand Province to support the 215th Corps. The Trauma Center is strategically located in the Taliban strongholds of the Southwest and, for the first time, gives the 215th the ability to effectively treat Afghan soldiers wounded in combat. Major Flinn is pictured with the local contractor's superintendent during a quality control site visit.

the FEST's strongest advocate," said Flinn. "He often provided me with insight and rudder steers that helped me become more effective."

The team's deployment spanned nine months and returned about six months ago. When Flinn returned, he became the district's operations officer. Prior to returning he said he made the most of working with his small expeditionary team, who he described as being highly adaptable, technically competent and a joy to be around.

He also worked on learning Dari, a language he was introduced to during a pre-deployment Afghan language immersion program. While he did use Dari while deployed, the head doctor of a hospital in remote Herat Province made fun of his American accent while speaking Dari.

"He had never heard an American speak Dari," Flinn said. "He said, in Dari, 'If you spend two weeks working in my hospital, we will fix your accent.'"

anistan

G STRONG

out in the field

UNDER CON

Construction of the new Joint Base Lewis-McChord connector road and overpass project that links both segments of the joint base entered the third phase of construction with the installation of 12, 183-foot girders Oct. 15. Phase I of the project consisted of clearing trees from the projected construction path. Phase II consisted of the construction of overpass support pillars, which caused the closure of the South Gate Road and the McChord Field Commercial Vehicle Inspection Point. Phase IV, paving operations to connect the new road to Barnes Blvd., will be in the late fall of 2014. The fifth and final phase of the project will occur during the winter months and consist of the finishing aspects of the project, such as curbing and lane striping. Project completion is set for the spring of 2015.

Corps photo

Corps photo

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Contractor Sealaska, of Auburn, Wash., uses tracked vehicles to finish up placing material on a levee for the Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration Project phase one. The project, a partnership with the Tulalip Tribes of Washington, restores about 360 acres of critical estuary habitat along the Snohomish River. Phase one constructs a 4,000 foot setback levee to protect Brashler Industrial Park, the Marysville Wastewater Treatment Plant and residents surrounding the area. Phase two, scheduled to begin June 2015, involves lowering 1,400 feet of the Ebey Slough dike and then excavating a 270 foot breach in it to allow tidal inundation.

STRUCTION

Two large Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility buildings, TEMF 1 and 2, totaling 155,518 sq. ft., and two Organizational Storage Buildings, OSB 1 and 2, totaling 8,972 sq. ft., will be complete in early 2015. The $38 million project will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified Gold and will feature rainwater harvesting, underfloor air distribution and innovative lighting control sensors. These sustainable design efforts will result in a 50 percent energy savings from the baseline design. They addressed the design challenge of the buildings massive size by incorporating an alternating roofline, translucent bay doors, and other architectural features to provide an aesthetically pleasing building.

Corps photo

Corps photo

Corps photo

The "Eliminate Phantom Silos" project, resulting from the "New START" Treaty between Russia and the U.S., requires both countries to reduce the numbers of launchers and warheads. It eliminates 50 Peacekeeper (PK) silos at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.; 50 Minuteman III (MM) silos and three Missile Alert Facilities at Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; and 4 MM/PK sites at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. Silos are eliminated by putting the site in a condition that will not allow it to launch a missile. The work is performed in two phases. In Phase 1, various topside features are removed and the silo launch tube (LT) and underground launcher equipment room (LEB) are filled with dirt. The site then enters a 60-day observation period where Russian satellites (or an on-site inspection team), can verify the work. Phase 2 installs a permanent concrete lid over the LT and LEB access shaft, rendering them unusable. USACE, Omaha District, managed the design and contract award, and contract administration is handled by the Black Hills office in Rapid City, S.D. Project engineering and quality assurance have been performed jointly by F.E. Warren AFB and Malmstrom AFB. The work in Wyoming completed in late July 2014, the Montana work wrapped up in late October 2014, and the Vandenberg work will be finished in March 2015.

in learning

Have experience,

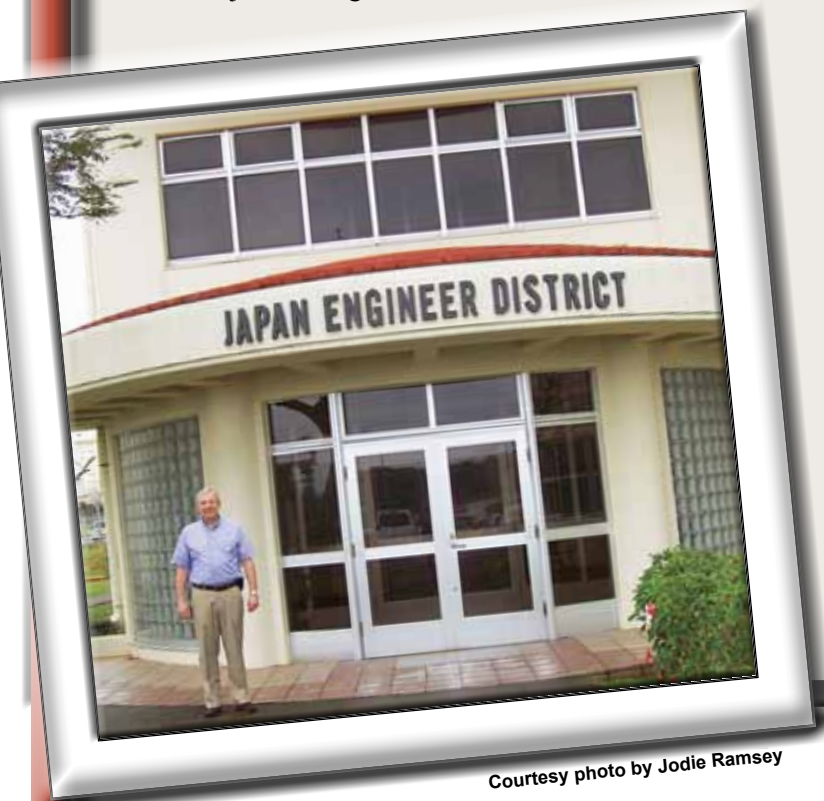
Courtesy photo by Michael Sangren

By Tanya King
Public Affairs Office

It just might be your best chance at seeing a foreign country—that's what Project Manager Michael Sangren, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, would tell his coworkers about volunteering for an overseas assignment.

"As a resident in a foreign country, you get to experience the country on an intimate level," said Sangren, who spent nearly six months in 2014 working for USACE's Japan Engineer District in Okinawa, Japan. "I have been a tourist in Paris and London, and while you do get to see and experience the main things, it's nothing like going to farmers markets, wandering through department stores, or even just driving around the countryside seeing how people really live, though you do have to feel adventurous, and not be afraid to get out and mingle."

And now is the time to go, according to former Seattle District Project Manager Steve Miller.



Courtesy photo by Jodie Ramsey

"Our manpower document currently shows vacancies for accountants; mail and file clerks; information technology, contracting, workforce management and transportation specialists; architects; civil, project and interdisciplinary engineers; construction representative; project managers; and safety officers," said Miller, who is Japan District's chief of project management in Okinawa. "We've got so much work here that we are pushing it back to other districts."

For Miller, the two to five year assignment has given him an opportunity to grow professionally.

"Working with a variety of districts, I've really gotten a sense of how the Corps works," said Miller, who has been in Japan for more than a year now. "Hosting many distinguished visitors, learning a new culture, and working with different construction methods and materials—all of these things have really shaken some of the assumptions I've made as an engineer."

Miller also commented on how living in a different part of the world has broadened his knowledge and opened his mind.

"When you leave here, you will understand [U.S.] codes a lot better because you will spend a lot of time studying Japanese methods to figure out how they relate. You won't find equivalency because they are hard to compare," he said. "Japanese seismic design and ports and harbors design are considered the best in the world by many experts. Structurally they are very sound but electrically they are very different—they have different heating, ventilating and air conditioning laws as they don't cool

Michael Sangren poses in front of the Okinawa Area Office in Okinawa, Japan. After World War II, the Japan Engineer District used to be located in Okinawa, but has since been relocated to Camp Zama on the main island of Honshu in Japan. The building is still marked by its former name when it was the main headquarters for the district.

will travel

(left) Though many federal employees can receive special privileges to use military commerical facilities such as American banks, base exchanges and commissaries, shopping on the local economy is also an option. One such place many Americans shop is what they often refer to as "The Monkey Store" because non-Japanese speakers can recognize the store by the its monkey logo. Most household goods are sold there. (right) Okinawa Island is 463.72 square miles and is located in the Pacific Ocean, 400 miles south of mainland Japan. It has a population of nearly 1.4 million with 314,000 living in the capital city of Naha.

their buildings as much as we do. If you want to learn to solve tropical design problems, come here."

Sangren spent his time in Okinawa working on the final stages of a military construction project to build a new unit compound with a headquarters building and maintenance facility.

One of the most challenging aspects for him came from correspondence issues when working with others working on the project, but located in the U.S. Issues stemmed from time delays and the International Date Line, which he crossed to get to Japan.

"Okinawa Saturday was Friday in the U.S. so there was always a day change to consider," Sangren illustrated. "My [architect/engineer firm] was in Hawaii so I had to adjust my expectations about responses to e-mails. And my customer's higher headquarters were on the East Coast. So even though the issue I was dealing with might need an answer immediately, just the time and distance created delays."

All in all, both Miller and Sangren developed close relationships with Japanese nationals, who they said went out of their way to show them around, making the challenges all part of the experience.

"[The Japanese nationals] would go out of their way to help, explain things, point out interesting things to do, and give instructions on how to get there," Sangren reflected. "Their help really did make the whole experience enjoyable, and I am sure anyone who would go to Okinawa would find the same thing."

For anyone interested in applying for a position in Okinawa or in any other overseas location for a two/three year tour, USAJOBS advertises job openings. In some cases, management-directed reassignments are available for qualified applicants to expedite the hiring process. For more information about those assignments, email Willetta Acon at willetta.d.acon@usace.army.mil.

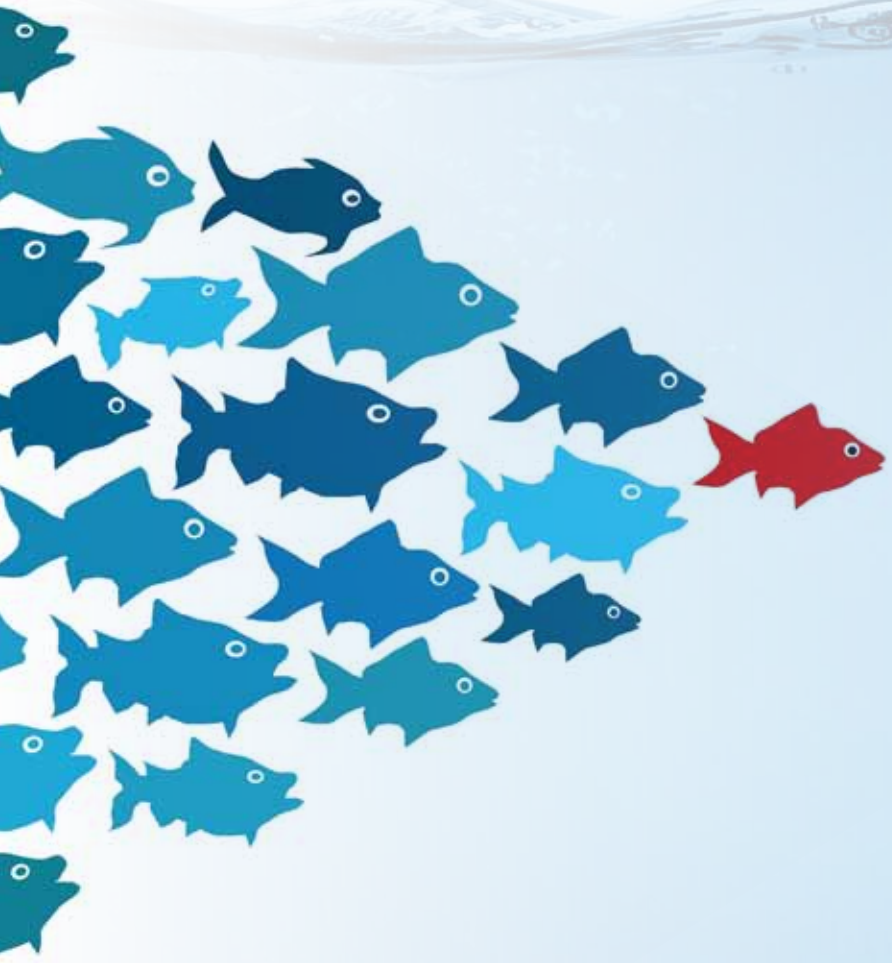
Courtesy photo by Michael Sangren

The photo above shows the sun setting over Araha Beach near Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. Okinawa is a tropical island 70 miles long and three to 17 miles wide. Finding ocean views isn't hard to do on what some consider to be the "Hawaii of Asia." The popular tourist destination has outdoor activities including snorkeling, scuba diving and swimming.

in leadership

Get hooked on leadership

By Tanya King
Public Affairs Office



"Change is inevitable. Growth is optional."

- John Maxwell

As the U.S. Army Corps districts downsize their workforces in response to the ever-slimming defense budget, regionalization has become increasingly important, according to USACE Northwestern Division Director of Regional Business Dr. James Hearn.

Citing that we can't afford to do things the way we used to, he stresses to upcoming district leaders to broaden horizons by learning about the vastness and complexity of their respective divisions.

One way he's been able to impress this upon future leaders is through the Regional Leadership Development Program, in which each district commits a couple of their rising stars to a year-long leadership course.

"I want people to feel confident stretching their comfort zone," he said and explained that RLDP graduates are expected to advocate for this type of leadership in their district. "How do we remain relevant and cost effective in the future? Hopefully the graduates will team up with people in other districts who have helpful skill sets, and they will also talk with colleagues who maybe haven't thought about this kind of leadership program."

Jeff Dillon, Seattle District Civil Works Program Manager and 2013-2014 RLDP graduate, said he's found learning about what his peers in other districts found challenging and how they solve problems most valuable.

"It's important to have a good understanding of how the districts work, what Northwestern Division's role is and how they take our problems to USACE Headquarters," Dillon said. "Understanding that, I have a better appreciation for how the division applies headquarters' guidance to all five districts even though we all operate slightly different."

For some, leadership programs might be a box to check to get to the next career milestone.

"I always had a nagging feeling that the district's Leadership Development Program would be a checkbox I needed to fill; it didn't take me very long to realize the RLDP was much more than that," said Steve Kelley, Seattle District Area Engineer at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and 2013-2014 RLDP graduate. "I had a good understanding about what happens in construction and frankly, I thought military construction was the center of Seattle District's universe. But a light bulb went off in my head during the program and I realized there's a big world outside construction in the Corps. It's fascinating what we do."

"I believe in having leaders tell their story; if we are going to invest in our future, we have to ask them to do that."

—Dr. James Hearn

For both Kelley and Dillon, the connections they made with their counterparts in other districts proved to be extremely valuable.

"It takes a while for everyone to warm up to each other," said Kelley, pointing out he is a very social person. "By the end of the program, we all became pretty good friends."

"I benefitted on the personal level from the group's organizational diversity and getting to know participants as competent and passionate people," Dillon said. "I particularly enjoyed hearing perspectives on how my peers affect things from their level and how their district culture and differences contribute to the division's success."

Hearn said that though personal connections are important, one of his top goals is to invest in the Corps' future by giving the participants access to top leadership.

"I believe in having leaders tell their story; if we are going to invest in our future, we have to ask them to do that," Hearn said. "Some people have gotten where they are because they took a road less traveled; so by leaders telling their stories, it gives them the perspective that maybe they can reach for that as well. I always encourage those I am mentoring to reach for a level higher than they thought they could achieve."

This is important, Hearn said, because many of the Corps' senior leaders are now pushing retirement limits and many are rapidly retiring.

"We're going to have branch and section chiefs with only 12 years experience—the people filling those roles are really good," said Hearn. "Technically they bring a lot to the table. Many have deployed to war zones; assisted with disaster relief after tornadoes, floods and mudslides; and they have done work much higher than their grade level. We want to ensure they have the leadership skills to go along with their technical competency."

Those interested in becoming a RLDP candidate should ask their supervisors how to apply. The application process for the 2015-2016 class will begin in April 2015. Class size is typically 12 people and up to three participants are selected to represent Seattle District.

on base

Sound Investment

By Miriam Easley
Joint Base Lewis-McChord
Public Works Office

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., is one of the eight pilot installations designated by the Honorable Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy & Environment), to become a Net Zero Water installation by 2020 and includes an essential upgrade to its existing 60 year old wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

Part of JBLM, to include its WWTP, borders the Puget Sound, which is home to thousands of species and many industries, including fishing and clamming. The region depends on this body of water for environmental, economic and recreational use.

The current JBLM WWTP plant uses 1950s-1970s-era technology. As a result, it doesn't have the ability to reliably treat wastewater to today's more stringent water quality standards, specifically nutrient limits, which includes nitrogen.

This shortfall was confirmed by a 2009 U. S. Army Corps of Engineer feasibility study. The study recommended construction of a treatment plant that would use more up-to-date processes that would enable it to meet current and future water quality requirements for the Puget Sound, including nutrient limits.

JBLM's $91 million WWTP treatment plant upgrade, managed by USACE Seattle District Project Manager Ken Weaver, will feature the most current technologies, ensuring that the plant will meet current and future discharge requirements to protect water quality in the Puget Sound. It will be capable of treating effluent to Class A reclaimed water standards, setting the stage for future water reuse, in lieu of the present practice of wastewater discharge to the Puget Sound. Phase One construction of the WWTP upgrade is scheduled to be complete by March 2016.

The upgraded WWTP plant paves the way for a future Phase Two project that would build a reclaimed

Illustration courtesy of CDM-Smith

Corps photo by Tanya King

The photo above shows the site prep for the formwork associated with the floor of one of the two the secondary clarifiers to be constructed. The secondary clarifiers in an activated-sludge wastewater treatment process are used to settle out suspended solids to provide a clear, low solids content wastewater that overflows to the receiving stream for further treatment.

water distribution system on JBLM. Once complete, the distribution system would allow redirection of reclaimed water across the installation for aquifer recharge, possible wetlands creation, irrigation, wash racks, fire suppression and mechanical systems.

Also, if Phase Two is completed, JBLM would no longer discharge municipal WWTP effluent, reducing the overall WWTP effluents going to the Puget Sound, and increasing the health of the ecosystems not only adjacent to JBLM but throughout the Puget Sound. Two of the greatest environmental issues facing Puget Sound are toxic contamination and eutrophication (low oxygen due to excess nutrients). WWTP effluent is a contributing factor to both issues. This not only results in positive changes for the environment but also to the surrounding community and economy. Currently, the Washington State Department of Health has established a shellfish exclusion zone around the JBLM WWTP outfall in the Puget Sound. Phase Two could result in this zone being opened up for commercial fishing and shellfish beds for the Nisqually tribe. The JBLM WWTP upgrades represent a nexus of the Army's three Net Zero categories: Energy, Water, and Waste.

• **WATER:** Phase One improves the quality of the effluent pumped into Puget Sound and Phase Two would make the WWTP a zero discharge plant.

• **ENERGY:** Methane-rich sludge digester gas will fuel two hot water boilers that heat the digesters, creating a closed loop system. A ground loop heat pump (GLHP) system will provide heating and cooling to the administrative offices and analytical laboratory.

• **WASTE:** Biosolids from the WWTP are taken to JBLM's composting facility and turned into compost that is used on the installation and sold through the Qualified Recycling Program (QRP). QRP funds are then used to fund recycling, sustainability, and Moral, Welfare, and Recreation programs.

Phase One of the JBLM WWTP is a step towards meeting current and future compliance requirements and provides the momentum needed to complete Phase Two. Phase Two will move the installation beyond compliance doing our part in preserving the Puget Sound.

The illustration to the left is an artist's rendering of what the completed WWTP at JBLM will look like. Unlike most military construction projects at JBLM, which consist of constructing mission facilities on a project site, the WWTP is also a process facility. That means in addition to the challenges of constructing a 15-acre complex of interconnected facilities and infrastructure, Seattle District and contractor CDM-Smith are also designing and initiating an entirely new wastewater treatment process to comply with current operating permit criteria, while posturing the WWTP for future population growth and operating conditions 50 years or more into the future.

in review

Carbon Monoxide: The Silent Killer

Carbon Monoxide is a clear, odorless gas that is poisonous to humans and pets. Defective furnaces, fireplace flues, and oil heaters have long been the primary cause of accidental CO poisoning.

There are no perceptible symptoms if an individual's CO levels are less than 10 percent. Most people are unaware that they are being exposed.

Here is what to look for:

At 10 percent levels, symptoms may mimic the flu or a cold. These may include

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Mild confusion
- Irregular breathing and heartbeat
- Nausea
- Coughing

Take note especially if everyone in the home is experiencing at least some of the symptoms, and pay particular attention if pets exhibit symptoms since animals cannot get the flu.

At levels greater than 20 percent, a person can lose consciousness, go into a coma, or die.

If CO poisoning is suspected:

- Evacuate
- Get everyone into the fresh air immediately
- Call 9-1-1 from another location
- Report it to the fire department, even if everyone is feeling better

Common sources of carbon monoxide poisoning include:

- Furnaces
- Gas appliances including, stoves, clothes dryers and water heaters
- Automobiles—in many states it is required by code to prevent CO from the exhaust from entering living spaces. This is done by lowering the garage floor below the main floor of the house and placing vent holes at the bottom of the exterior garage walls.

How to Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Have your furnace and gas appliances inspected and maintained by a qualified contractor annualy before the start of the heating months.

Periodically check your furnace:

Flames should be mostly blue and steady.

Look for discoloration or soot buildup around the burner access door and vents. This could signal a problem.

Check the venting system. Soft, rusted or broken vent piping can release combustion products indoors.

Examine the furnace or boiler. See that it's free of dust, rust or any other signs of corrosion.

Check air filters regularly. Clean or replace them as needed.

Make sure furnace panels and grill are in place and the fan compartment door is closed when the furnace is on. Leaving these doors open could cause CO to build up in living areas.

Install Carbon Monoxide alarms:

It is a good idea to install a CO alarm on each level of your home, and in or near each sleeping area.

Try to keep the detectors at least 20 feet from any fuel burning appliances and at least 10 feet from high humidity locations like bathrooms and kitchens. If an alarm sounds, call a professional to check your gas burning appliances.

Test your Carbon Monoxide detector/alarm:

One can determine if a CO detector/alarm is working by using special CO alarm testing devices. These devices simulate CO using a small pellet in a package. When the pellet is moistened, it releases a non-toxic gas. After a few minutes, if the alarm is properly working, the alarm should sound. For more information about these testing devices, check with your local hardware store.

around the district

Congratulations:

Washington State Emergency Management recognized **Capt. Kyle Wagner,** and **Mamie Brouwer** for their assistance with the July 2014 firestorm in Eastern Washington.

Christine Hobbs and **Rieta Kauzlarich** received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service by U.S. Army Special Operations Command for outstanding performance on the $20.6 million SOC Company Operating Facility at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., which was accepted for beneficial occupancy in June 2014.

Retiree Michael Atwell was awarded the Silver Star, the military's third-highest decoration for valor. The recognition occurred this summer but was for Atwell's service to the nation in November 1967, while serving in Vietnam.

Rustin Director is chief of Management Support Section, Operations Support Branch, Operations Division.

Out and About:

Seattle District employees collected 624 pounds of food, supplies and health products for the "Feds Feed Families" food drive this summer.

In June, **Peggy Marcus** and **Marian Valentine** participated in a Visitor Center Presentation to Ballard Chamber of Commerce, presenting plans for upgrades to the Lake Washington Ship Canal Visitor Center.

Captain Wagner staffed the district's display at the Wounded Warrior job fair at JBLM while **Capt. Rex Broderick** staffed jobs fairs there in August and September. **Gary Bartlett**, **Monty Biggs**, **Tom Bowser**, **Jon Lockart**, **Alana Mesenbrink** and **Shelly Salisbury** along with public affairs members staffed the Washington State Fair in Puyallup, Wash., in September.

Federal Center South agencies and district employees participated in Puget Sound Blood Center's blood drive and surpassed their goals by registering 26 donors and collecting 25 units of blood in September.

Moving On:

Al Barrus
Tamara Berdecia
Robert Berg
Patricia Blackwood
Gary Boteler
Steve Dodroe
Alexander Donaldson
Ericelda Dominguez
Elizabeth Ellis
Ghada Ellithy
Matt Frazier
William Hsueh
Kaitane Kircher
Kory Johnson
Johnny Jones
Kristin Lorenzen
Melinda Marquis
Julie McLeod
Ronald Muriera
Kevin Newton
Lan Nguyen
Rebeccah Noble
Amanda Rinkel
Brindle Summers
Scott Swanson
Tim Wood
Phoenix Young

Retirements:

Marne Brenne
Norma Gapasin
Jon Olson
John Wakeman

Condolences:

Marvin Lund
Mel Hoff
Brig. Gen (ret.) Walter Bachus

Welcome to the District:


April Swezey
Office Automation Clerk
Chief Joseph Dam


Jason Brehm
Laborer
Mud Mountain Dam


Kacy Cameron
Student Trainee
Regulatory Branch


Cathy Burns
CADRE Administrative Officer
Chief Joseph Dam


Kyle Mundy
Student Trainee
Chief Joseph Dam


Peter Gibson
Student Trainee
Regulatory Branch


Melissa Watkins
Student Trainee
Joint Base Lewis-McChord


Kaitlin Schnell
Student Trainee
Biologist


Margaret Oestreich
Office Support Assitant
Chief Joseph Dam


Rodney Ralston
CADRE Power Plant Electrician
Chief Joseph Dam


Kayla Patten
Environmental Engineer


Victor Cline
Utility Worker
Chief Joseph Dam

Public Affairs Office
Seattle District (CENWS-PA)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4735 East Marginal Way South
Seattle, WA 98134-2392

US Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District

Port of Seattle

Corps of Engineers, Port of Seattle sign harbor deepening cost-sharing agreement

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Port of Seattle signed an agreement Sept. 29 moving forward with a $3 million cost-shared feasibility study to investigate potential Port deepening alternatives.

In March 2012, the Corps' preliminary report found there's federal interest in potentially deepening Seattle Harbor's East and West Waterways This feasibility study will determine if there is an economically justifiable alternative. Seattle District Commander Col. John Buck and the Port of Seattle Chief Executive Officer Tay Yoshitani signed the agreement.

"The Port of Seattle greatly appreciates the Corps of Engineers in starting this study," said Yoshitani. "This is another step in keeping the Pacific Northwest a competitive trade gateway, and keeping thousands of local jobs here."

Port of Seattle Photo by Don Wilson

Port of Seattle Chief Executive Officer Tay Yoshitani and Seattle District Commander Col. John Buck shake hands before signing and entering into a $3 million cost-sharing agreement at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district office Sept. 29. Also pictured are, far left, Port of Seattle Seaport Managing Director Linda Styrk and, far right, Seattle District Deputy District Engineer for Programs & Project Management and Chief, Programs & Project Management Division Olton Swanson.

The president included the feasibility study in the administration's Fiscal Year 2014 budget and Congress gave the green light to pursue it in their annual fiscal year spending bill. It is the second of several studies the Corps is required to complete in its process. The process provides multiple opportunities for public outreach and input.

Authorized waterway depths are currently between -34 and -51 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). The study will investigate to depths of -55 feet MLLW, taking into consideration economics, cost, risk, environmental aspects, cultural resources, fish habitat, endangered species, geotechnical, coastal engineering and cost engineering.

The Corps and Port will split the cost equally and the study should be complete in three years. When complete, the feasibility report will include a net benefit analysis and the required National Environmental Policy Act documentation will disclose any environmental effects of deepening the existing channel.