

# The Newcastle



Vol 28 No. 9 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District September 1994

## DERP-FUDS meeting held in Baywood Park

**SAN LUIS OBISPO** — Baywood Park Training Area and removal of ordnance were the subject of the day as professionals from the Corps, California State Department of Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Luis Obispo County and a representative from UXB, the contractor, met here to discuss how to get the ordnance removal job done with the least damage to the environment.

The former Baywood Park Training Area qualifies for cleanup under Defense Environmental Restoration Program's Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) guidelines.

Baywood Park Training Area consisted of almost 9,000 acres. The main portion of the former site, comprising 7,040 acres, is south of the city of Morro Bay. A detached portion, 1,770 acres in size, is located in the northern section of the city of Morro Bay.

The main portion encompasses the sand spit of Morro Bay and a 2 1/2 mile stretch of ocean front in a southerly direction where Montana De Oro State Park is located.

The area also includes portions of the cities of Baywood Park and Los Osos; a portion of Park Ridge and Hollister Peak, both contiguous with the former Camp San Luis Obispo.

The meeting took place at the California State Park Department headquarters in San Luis Obispo. About 2,000 firefighters fought a wildfire at the time of the meeting, raising fears that the site visit to Baywood Park Training Area would need to be rescheduled.

Conferees included professionals from the Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers and representatives from Huntsville Division; San Luis Obispo County; a representative of UXB International, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; San Luis International, the firm that will be responsible for locating and

removing any ordnance; and the hosts of the conference, California State Parks Department.

The conferees discussed how the area would be electronically surveyed by devices called magnetometers, which tell the ordnance "hunters" whether there is a metal object below the surface that may be needed to be removed, or at least

searched for and assessed as to its existing danger or other status.

In the discussions U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel expressed concern that the habitats of the Kangaroo Rat and the Banded Dune Snail would either (Cont. on page 9)

## Chief of Engineers commends District on Labor-Management Partnership

**WASHINGTON** — In a letter to the field Lt. Gen. Arthur E. Williams, Chief of Engineers, commended the Los Angeles

District on its Labor-Management Partnership.

In quoting the goals of the National Performance Review and Executive Order 12871, General Williams noted that the order mandates that Federal Agencies establish partnerships with their labor counterparts.

"Partnerships between management and labor unions in the Corps of Engineers are a means to fulfill the Corps Vision to create an organizational culture which strives for excellence, encourages and celebrates teamwork, develops leadership and empowers people," Williams wrote.

"We must involve unions as full partners to enable the Corps to keep its competitive edge and continued success in a streamlined organization. The most critical factor for successful partnership is the cooperation between management and labor from the very beginning," the general stressed. "The South Pacific Division, Los Angeles, St Louis and Buffalo Districts have led the way in this effort."

General Williams applauded the District's efforts and encouraged other Corps organizations to contact us and discuss our program with us. Lessons learned and successful initiatives we have undertaken.



**DOES THIS MEAN WE'RE ENGAGED?.... Col. M. R. Robinson, LA district commander, 'pinned' Senator Barbara Boxer with a District pin after a tour of the Los Angeles Harbor Project conducted by the Port of Los Angeles**



# EAGLES VIEW

by COL M. R. (Mike) Robinson

It's hard to believe that summer is over...the kids have been back in school so long that we can't remember having them around all summer...and a new fiscal year is upon us. HAPPY NEW YEAR! (I'll save the nostalgia for that other New Year, which will be here only too soon!) I do want to recognize the start of the new fiscal year, for two reasons.

First, I'd like to say a BIG thank you to the many of you who worked so hard — and continued to work up to the very last minute — on end-of-year contract awards and on the end-of-year close-outs of various sorts. I know this is a huge effort and I appreciate all the fine work you have done for the Los Angeles District.

Second, I want to recognize that the beginning of the new fiscal year really does amount to a new beginning in many respects. USACE and SPD clear the score boards and start counting all over again. We have another chance to excel in all those many indicators which are used to measure our performance. And by all indications, we are geared to showing them an even better year than the last one (which was pretty good).

How good was it, you ask? Well, in the recently completed Command Assistance Visit, conducted by the South Pacific Division, Los Angeles received many kudos...overall, about a 17 per cent improvement over last year, with laudatory comments about the best Affirmative Action Employment in the Division, the great response to the Northridge quake, our outstanding Safety and Occupational Health training, and a super success in negotiating a healthy reduction in our building rent, saving our good taxpayers a bundle! In program performance, we are more accurate at predicting and executing our overall program than anyone else in the Corps!

Another area where we have shown some great achievements is in our Command Management Review...here we received credit for the best overall Program Management in the Division (and Construction General execution for Civil Works in the Corps); completion of more Reconnaissance Studies than anyone else in the Corps; and Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization successes that are carrying the Division.

The bottom line to all this is Quality, with a capital Q. But there's work remaining to do. By Command Assistance standards, we still have 14 per cent of our areas that don't meet standards. And by Command Management Review standards, 70 of our areas are still rated "red." One of my New (fiscal) Year's resolutions is to help the district show continued improvement in these programs. But it will take a lot of teamwork.

Speaking of teamwork. I want to mention three things. Recently, the District leadership conducted what was called a Transition Conference, which is a technique used to focus on the new District Engineer and provide him or her (me, in this case) with insights into the strength, weaknesses and issues with-

in the District. What impressed me the most, aside from the great individual excellence I perceived, was the candor and teamwork I saw in the District leadership. I have since drafted my Performance Support Form and have focused goals and objectives for my own performance in my job, based on many of the items suggested in the Transition Conference.

Two timely celebrations that might not be thought of in terms of teamwork are Women's Equality Day, celebrated on August 26 and National Hispanic Heritage Month, that runs from September 15 to October 15. Some great things about the former are elsewhere in this edition of the Newcastle (better written than I could) and a special edition of the Newcastle is forthcoming on the latter, but what I want to say here is that the bottom line of these recognitions is teamwork. Recognizing the

great contributions of, in these instance, women and Hispanics, is vital to the mutual understanding necessary to forge strong team links between women and men, Hispanic and Non-Hispanic. So I would encourage everyone to get involved, one way or another, in these celebrations.

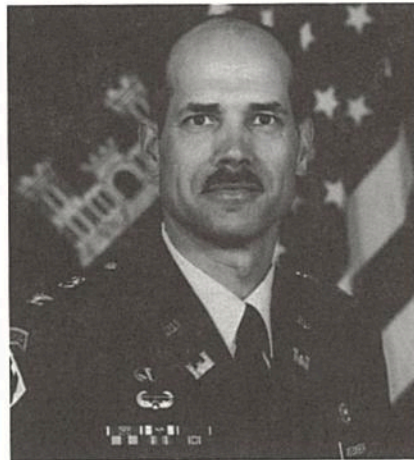
I guess I can't talk about Quality and Teamwork without talking about Trust. Unfortunately, what I have been thinking about in the Trust department lately is an unhappy aspect. It seems we have recently suffered a rash of property losses, especially of automation equipment. I would hope that whoever may have been the culprit is not a Corps employee (and therefore wouldn't be reading this), but just in case, would urge that

the individual return the items to the District. Office theft is a terrible thing that destroys a trusting atmosphere. But trust or not trust, we all have an obligation to protect the public property that is in our safekeeping, so we must tighten up our accountability and security measures to protect our equipment. I ask everyone to double their efforts in this behalf.

Protecting public property reminds me of my last point. I believe we all have a responsibility to protect our environment. One way we can do this is by recycling. I have noticed a lot of recyclables going into the trash lately and in many offices I visit, I don't see recycle containers. I have asked that our recycling program be reviewed, but in the meantime, I ask everyone to do whatever is practical to recycle. (I keep a tray in my office, close to my out box and trash can, where I can toss recyclable paper....)

I have just completed my initial tours of all our activities and offices throughout the District and continue to be amazed at the quality and diversity of our team. In visits with customer after customer, I hear praise for all of you. (I do hear about some issues and concerns expressed by our customers as well, so we can't afford to get complacent.) The bottom line is that the Los Angeles District is an organization of which I am extremely proud to be associated with. Thanks for all your great efforts!

**Trust...Quality...Teamwork...this is what it's all about.**





## EVER FORWARD

by Noreen Dean Dresser, FWP Manager

During the coming months, the Federal Womens Program (FWP) will be creating a dialogue on diversity issues. A salon/brown bag is being considered, starting in October, for a monthly luncheon that will feature different speakers on aspects of our cultural life in the workforce.

I am very interested in setting an agenda with team members that will offer a learning environment on how to craft a work environment that pulls the finest from us, individually and together, for the mission. We can work best when we are free to be fully present and attentive.

These presentations will be a practical forum that will allow you to come forward and craft your concerns into a viable gift for

leadership at the Corps. We can all learn new skills about working together. This is an invitation to help create positive change and to use your experience as a basis for team growth. If you have an idea or concern, I will assist you in crafting a luncheon program. The topics can be far reaching, they can be new ways of understanding customs as in ethnicity (an example would be the Romany, known in popular speech as Gypsies) to current issues such as sexual harassment in the workplace. These workshops are meant to foster discussion and to broaden our perspectives, not as answers, rather as meaningful engagement.

The FWP is looking to the men and women of the Corps to create a new working

environment that inspires the best in us for the mission. You can use the Federal Women Program as a learning laboratory to challenge other team members on how to create a dynamic equitable and creative work environment. These work/lunch shops will be playful, a chance to challenge the issues and to learn in a safe environment new behaviors that work on the job.

(ED. NOTE: The Ever Forward Column will continue to address questions of interest to team members. Direct questions you might have regarding employment with the Corps to the Newcastle or send me a LAN message to Ms. Dresser.)

## Morale, Welfare and Recreation Committee formed

As a result of an approved suggestion submitted by one of our District team members, Bob Armogeda of the Public Affairs Office, A District Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Committee is being established to promote, sponsor and manage a program of social activities for District team members.

The goal of the MWR Committee is to foster and encourage good fellowship among its members and contribute to the comfort, pleasure, mental and physical well-being of team members, their families and guests.

Working with the Public Affairs Office and other offices as needed, the committee will plan and supervise such activities as the anniversary celebration

and engineer picnic or other specific activities of a similar nature as may be assigned by and subject to the approval of the District Commander.

The MWR Committee is comprised of nine members who will serve a two-year term. The deputy commander serves as a non-voting member-advisor to assist the committee in formulating its programs. The nine voting members represent personnel of the District and were selected by their supervisors. They are:

\* Gary Paredes, RMO, will represent RMO, IMO and LMO.

\* Burke Large, Office of Counsel, will represent Counsel, EEO, Security, SADB, Exec. Office, Safety and PAO.

\* Leti Manley, will represent Contracting Division.

\* Vivian Swain, Planning Division.

\* Dave Weaver, Engineering Division.

\* Peggy Batten, Construction Operations.

\* Dee Gonzales, PPMD.

\* Martha Sanchez, Real Estate Division.

\* Pat Bonilla, Union.

Funds for this committee will come from scrap metal recycling and other money-raising activities the committee will initiate.



### THE NEWSCASTLE

#### COMMANDER

Colonel Michal R. Robinson

#### PAO

Dr. Fred-Otto Egeler

#### LAYOUT & DESIGN

Jennie A. Salas

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## PROJECT ENGINEER RECEIVES AWARD...

Leo Snyder, left, Maricopa County, Arizona Civil Works Project Office, accepts an award from Laurence Sanulescu, Flood Control District of Maricopa County. Snyder was honored for his role as the project engineer for Reach IV, as it contributed to the success of the Corps project contractor SUNDTCORP in a challenging reach of the 16-mile long Arizona Canal Diversion Channel. The Flood Control District nominated SUNDTCORP for the American Public Works Association Contractor of the Year Award, which they won.



## Rideshare Week Celebration October 3-7

Have you ever sat in traffic on the freeways and mused along these lines, "Oh, man, there has to be a better way of doing this." Well, ridesharing may be your solution.

Commuter Transportation Services of Los Angeles, combining forces with the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and the State of California Department of Transportation, are sponsoring "Rideshare Week," October 3-7.

You can carpool or vanpool during this week and be eligible for prizes by sending in a pledge card. (They have been distributed throughout the District and must be sent into Commuter Transportation Services Incorporated, 3550

Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 300, Los Angeles, Calif. 90010 by

October 11th, to be eligible). Local prizes are: One week in a recreational vehicle rental; 40 Metrolink monthly passes or 10-trip tickets; \$20 gift certificates, 150 of them; 250 Ralph's Grocery \$20 certificates; 10 Sanyo Fisher (USA) portable personal AM/FM stereo cassette players. Statewide prizes include: A personal computer, software and modem included; 27 California Getaways, which is two-night stay at any of 15 Doubletree Hotels in California; and five bicycles, perfect for those who would like to bicycle to work.

The prize drawing will be held Tuesday, October 18th. (If you did not receive your pledge card, contact Gil Cox in Logistics Management Office or Public Affairs Office and we'll see that you get one).





*50th Anniversary of World War II*

# President Clinton asks America to remember World War II Vets

President Bill Clinton called on America to remember World War II veterans and their contributions to America and the world.

"America is the way it is today because of what people gave up 50 years ago," Clinton told an audience of 5,000 during Memorial Day services at Arlington Cemetery in Virginia. "That is a lesson we must all remember - not only for the veterans of World War II, but for all our veterans on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and every day.

He also asked Americans to hold a special place for all our living American Veterans. "We owe them a lasting debt of gratitude, and their well-being must be always a cause of our common concern," he said.

Clinton repeated the country's obligation to find answers for families of those missing in action.

Although Memorial Day honors all veterans who fought and died in battle, the president's remarks centered on World War II and the Normandy invasion.

"Fifty years ago the world learned just what Americans are capable of," he said. "The battle that was fought there was not just between two armies, it was a battle between two ways of life."

Quoting Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Clinton said the "fury of an aroused democracy" brought the war in Europe to its end less than a year after the D-Day invasion. "In the chaos of battle, it was the independence and can-do confidence of the sons and daughters of America and the other democracies that won the day," he said. "It was the energies of free people who turned the tide."

After the war, Clinton said, the energies of those same veterans built today's modern society. Vets rebuilt war-torn Europe, modernized America's infrastruc-

ture and used the GI Bill to return to school and become today's leaders and educators.

"Now our generation honors them for what they did 50 years ago, knowing full well that the greatest honor we can give is



to build for the future ourselves... at home and abroad," said Clinton. He said this includes revitalizing the economy and

strengthening community and family values for the nation's children.

Clinton cautioned that America must remain vigilant against new threats.

"Today American men and women in uniform stand sentry all around the globe. They are the finest, best trained, best motivated fighting force the world has ever known."

He added the nation's highest commitment must be to keep America's military exactly that. "If they must be sent in harm's way, we owe them the support they need and deserve."

## WWII

### OPM proposes ending Time-In-Grade Restrictions

Federal employees would be eligible for much quicker promotions under proposed rules recently announced by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

The change is part of Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review. Officials said the change would make employees eligible for promotion based on performance rather than time in grade. The proposed rules appeared in the June 15, Federal Register and are subject to a 60 days' public comment before OPM issues the final rules.

"Abolishing the time-in-grade regulations will eliminate unrealistic expectations of guaranteed promotion after one year," said OPM Director James B. King. "Now employees will know that advancement hinges on performance and skill levels."

Since 1951 employees have been required to spend one year in a general

schedule pay grade before being eligible for promotion, regardless of skill level and experience. The statutory basis for the requirement expired in 1978. OPM continued the requirement under its regulatory authority.

OPM officials said the change would be most useful in situations where a person with a master's degree or other strong qualifications accepts a low grade position to "get in the door" of federal government. Under current rules such people would be stuck at that grade even if positions open up that are better suited to their qualifications.

The National Partnership Council, made up of labor and management representatives, approved the change. However, the council recommended retaining time-in-grade requirements for bargaining units in which unions have exclusive rights. Time-in-grade requirements could drop later if these unions agree to the change.





**JAPANESE VISITORS...** District Engineer Col. M. R. Robinson talks with Dr. Tokuji Tomaru, executive director of the Japan Construction Information Center. He and several members of the Study Team for River Group Construction Costs, received briefings by Lt. Col. J.J. Dittman, deputy district engineer and other members of the District staff. The group of six engineers also toured the Santa Ana Mainstem Project.

## Seven Oaks Dam embankment construction underway near Redlands

CBPO of America began construction of the main embankment and spillway for the Seven Oaks Dam in June. The 29 million cubic meter earth and rockfill dam, located in San Bernardino County near Redlands, will be 168 meters high and have a crest of 1005 meters. Work to be performed under the \$167,777,000 contract consists of the embankment; a 15-meter high coffer dam, excavation of a spillway approximately 168 meters in width; completion of an outlet works and intake tower; installation of gates in the outlet tunnel; construction of permanent access roads and bridges; and revegetation and hydroseeding of the work areas.

The dam is a key element in the Corps Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Control Project that is now in its fourth year of construction. The project has key features in San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties and will provide additional flood protection to over two million Southern California residents when it is completed. The LA District designed the project which will cost an estimated \$1.5 billion and is scheduled for completion at the turn of the century. Local sponsors for the project include Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties who are providing cost sharing funds in excess of \$465 million.

Eight bids were received for the embankment ranging from CBPO's bid to a high bid of more than \$280 million. The government's estimate for the work was \$203,771,540.

**Support America  
Buy  
U.S. Savings Bonds  
Today**

## Credit Union looking for lost members

The District's Credit Union (CU) is required by law to periodically review the account activity of all its members. If there hasn't been any activity in an individual's account in the past three years, they must attempt to reach the member. If the CU member can't be found, the CU is required by law to turn the funds in the account over to the State of California.

The CU needs your help in finding the following lost members. If you know the whereabouts of Frank Andres, Olga Hernandez, Wayne Morishige, Benjamin Blatt, Gary Hilliard, Janae Root, Steven Davis, Joe Mano or Duke Wilson, please contact the CU at (213) 894-2753.

**NOT WEARING A  
SAFETY BELT CAN COST  
YOU AN ARM & A LEG.**



It's against the law. So if you don't want a ticket, buckle up. Or, you could become broke in more ways than one.

**YOU COULD LEARN  
A LOT FROM A DUMMY;  
BUCKLE YOUR SAFETY  
BELT**



## Planning Division hosts Reconnaissance Study Workshop

by Pat Luvender, Study Manager

The Los Angeles District Planning Division held a public workshop on August 24 at the George Lane Park Auditorium, L-8, Quartz Hill.

The District is initiating a North Los Angeles County Flood Control Reconnaissance Study at the request of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) because of 1992 and 1993 flooding problems in the area.

Many people were present at the workshop to discuss the Antelope Valley Drainage Basin Reconnaissance Study currently being undertaken by the district.

The study will focus on the 1,195 square mile area located in the north Los Angeles County portion of the Antelope Valley drainage basin. The study area consists of six major streams

including Big and Little Rock Creeks, Amargosa Creek, Portal Ridge Wash and Fairmount Wash. The streams range in length from six miles to 40 miles and are well defined in the mountains and foothills, but lose their identities on the valley floors. All streams are intersected by the California or Los Angeles Aqueducts, cutting their drainage basins in half.

All the information received at the workshop and written comments will be used to determine whether there is a federal interest in potential flood control improvements or related purposes. If the resulting information warrants it and a local sponsor agrees to share the costs, the LA District will undertake a more detailed feasibility study.



Federal employees needn't worry about retiring with a buyout because they don't meet the five-year enrollment requirement of the federal health benefits program. The Office of Personnel Management is waiving that rule.

Under the new policy, employees who retire with buyouts can continue their health insurance into retirement even if they haven't been enrolled for the full five years.

The policy covers employees considering buyouts under the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994 and similar buyouts offered under other legislation such as the incentive program offered by DoD which began March 30.

## Reclamation reorganizes their Arizona Projects Office

PHOENIX — The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation has restructured its Arizona Projects Office as part of a nationwide reorganization of Reclamation authorized by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

The newly titled Phoenix Area Office has several responsibilities throughout Arizona including: completion of the Central Arizona Project (FY95 budget \$146.3 million); Safety of Dams construction modifications to Theodore Roosevelt, Bartlett, Coolidge, and Horseshoe Dams (FY95 budget \$37.7 million); development of major environmental initiatives and programs to protect Arizona's wildlife and habitat; implementation of Native American water rights settlements; and administration of Reclamation law and programs.

Along with its name change, the Phoenix Area Office, (PAO), has received expanded authority to manage, plan, develop and implement programs and projects that may have previously required lengthy reviews at the regional or national level, according to Dennis E. Schroeder, manager of the PAO.

"We're still at 23636 N. 7th St, PO Box 9980, Phoenix, 85068 and the phone numbers have remained the same," Schroeder said.

Internally, PAO is restructured as well. The staff's goal is to improve customer service by reducing layers of supervision, eliminating non-value added tasks and empowering employees with increased job responsibility.

## Fax line opens communication link

Dr. John H. Zirschky, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), has published his fax number to receive information from all employees who want to communicate with him. The fax line is not intended to take the place of chain-of-command communication, Zirschky said, but rather to open a channel of communications to help him stay in touch with the field.

Transmissions should be limited to a single page and sent directly to Dr. Zirschky. Your input will be used in policies, directives and guidelines that originate in Zirschky's office.

**FAX HOTLINE**  
**(703)695-5048**



## Signal Soldiers getting new buildings

**Fort Huachuca--**"Today, we are breaking ground for the permanent home base of a unit that, for more than 50 years, has had as its home... the world," commented Brig. Gen. Robert E. Wynn, U.S. Army Information Systems Command commander.

"The 504th Signal Battalion will finally have a permanent home. The battalion is unique in the Army, in that its mission keeps most of its soldiers and civilians at places outside the Fort Huachuca area," General Wynn said. "Its installer personnel are the most traveled people in our Army. They've had a home here since 1968 -- but it has been in World War II temporary buildings that have long outlived their usefulness. We have long needed to get them out of woods."

Now, to our great satisfaction and to the credit of a lot of hard work by our engineers, we are breaking ground. When construction is finished in late 1995, we will have a \$4.3 million home for this outstanding unit," the general continued, "The new structures will replace those old structures with a 15,000 square foot administration building and a 20,200 square foot applied instruction facility".



*John Smock, Fort Huachuca, Resident Engineer, turns a shovel full of dirt at the groundbreaking.*

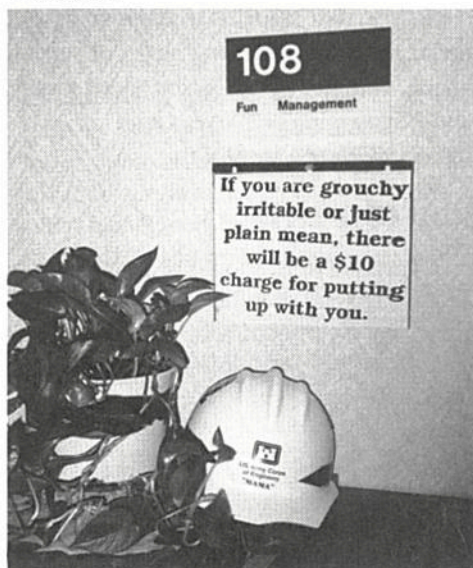
## Hatch Act affects Corps employees

Recent amendments on political activities under the Hatch Act will affect Corps employees.

The Hatch Act reform amendments, in effect since Feb. 3, allow federal employees to participate in political activities away from work.

Although many Hatch Act restrictions still apply, federal employees may now actively campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections, something they couldn't do before.

If an employee violates the restrictions he or she could be removed from their position and any funds appropriated for that position would not be used to pay the employee.



### DOs



#### *Employees of the Corps may*

- . be candidates for public office in non-partisan elections;
- . register and vote as they choose;
- . assist in voter registration;
- . contribute money to political organizations;
- . attend political fundraising functions;
- . attend and be active at political rallies and meetings;
- . join and be an active member of a political party or club;
- . sign nominating petitions;
- . campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments and municipal ordinances;
- . campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections;
- . make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections;
- . distribute campaign literature in partisan elections and
- . hold office in political clubs or parties.

### DONT's



#### *Corps employees may not*

- . use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election;
- . collect political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal organizations or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee;
- . knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency;
- . engage in political activity while on duty;
- . engage in political activity in any government office;
- . engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform;
- . engage in political activity while using a government vehicle;
- . solicit political contributions from the general public;
- . be candidates for public office in partisan election or
- . wear political buttons on duty.



**District to build beddown facility for Singapore AF**

# **LUKE AIR FORCE BASE: A Fighter Base for the World**

Luke Air Force Base, located in the Phoenix suburb of Litchfield Park, Arizona, and its name sake Frank Luke, Jr., has contributed to American fighter pilot legacy. Luke won his fame as a WWI flying ace and was the first aviator to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The major mission for the air base named for Luke is the training of fighter pilots for the U. S. and selected Allied nations.

Singapore will be the newest member of the Luke family when the District completes a \$5.2 million beddown facility. The 32,000-square-foot project will consist of a two-bay hanger, maintenance area and a squadron operations headquarters.

The Singapore Air Force will conduct flying operations for F-16 fighters that the Singapore government is buying under the Foreign Military Sales Program from the U. S.

The Corps has been involved in construction at Luke for more than 50 years when it was known as the Litchfield Park Air Base.

Initial construction started in 1940. Although only a few buildings and the runways had been completed, the first class of 45 students arrived on June 6, 1941 to begin their advanced flight training in the AT-6. Since the Luke runways were not ready, these students flew out of Sky Harbor Airport, another construction project of the Corps, and graduated on August 15, 1941.

During World War II, Luke AFB was the largest fighter training base in the Army Air Corps, earning the name, "Home

of the Fighter Pilot." The Air Force deactivated the air base in November 1946. Luke was reactivated with the advent of the Korean Conflict in February 1951 and became a key element of the Air Training Command of the reorganized U. S. Air Force.

(The Agua Fria area of Luke was plagued by periodic floods. In 1951, a flood inundated the base with silt, sand, and gravel deposited over the entire base. As a result the Trilby Wash detention base and outlet channel, to provide the neces-

sary flood protection was authorized by Congress in 1953. Funds were finally allocated and the Los Angeles District completed the project in 1966.)

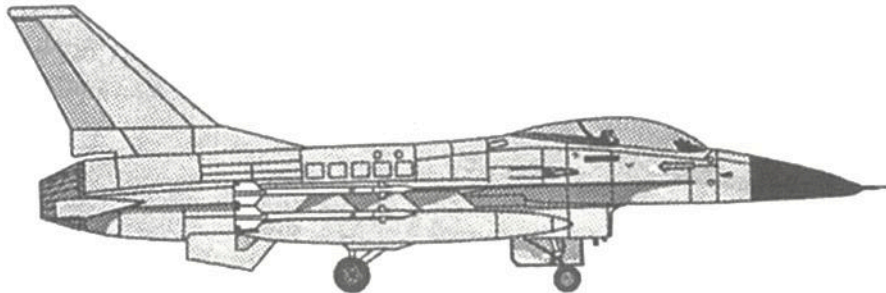
In 1953, the Air Force formed the Thunderbirds, the official Air Force

Aerial Demonstration Team, which was initially home-based at Luke.

Under an international agreement Luke also is the base where West German pilots began fighter training in 1957. On July 1, 1958 the base transferred to the Tactical Air Command. During the Viet Nam War, thousands of American fighter pilots flew in support of the war effort.

During the 1970's and 1980's, the base served as the main provider of fighter pilots for the Tactical Air Command and fighter forces worldwide.

For more than 50 years the Corps successfully handled the detailed engineering design and all construction at Luke and continues with the construction of this new facility for Singapore.



*Singapore plans to buy up to 18 of the C and D models of the U.S. made F-16 fighter aircraft. Pilots will train at a Corps-built facility.*

## **DERP-FUDS**

(continued from page 1)

be destroyed or seriously damaged in the hunt for ordnance.

Greg Boghossian of the L.A. District and David Muellerleile and Sam Sang of Huntsville Division, Alabama, assured the USFWS staffers that every effort would be made by the contractor, with oversight by Corps personnel, to perform their scanning and removal work with a constant

concern for habitat protection and worker safety. Conferees agreed that groups of people debating an issue and trying to decide when and how to conduct a project such as this kind of ordnance cleanup, which might involve land and habitat disturbance, at least temporarily, can be done in "let's get it done in the least harmful and friendliest way possible" attitude.

Another planning meeting, again hosted by the California State Department of Parks, will be held in the near future to map out strategies on the scanning and removal work and when to schedule the

work around the seasonal and breeding habits of the two threatened species.

The U.S. Army acquired the training area during World War II as an off-post training facility for the use of service members of the former Camp San Luis Obispo. A major portion was used as maneuver area for troops, vehicles, equipment and for bivouacs by soldiers stationed at Camp San Luis Obispo and the National Guard. The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps also used the facility, mostly for amphibious landings along the ocean front areas.



# Transitions

## District retiree luncheon scheduled

Nostalgia, and friends talking about what the last year has brought in their lives, will be the order of the day as folks gather for the Eleventh Annual Retiree Luncheon and Gallery of Honor Ceremony, Wednesday, October 12, 1994, at the Luminarias Restaurant, 3500 Ramona Boulevard in Monterey Park.

Gallery of Honor nominees this year are: Sylvana V. DeCigaran; John P. Hatteberg; Guy Bebout; and Harry W. McQuat. The latter two nominees will be honored posthumously; Mr. Bebout passed away in 1947 and Mr. McQuat in 1958.

Following is a schedule of the many events for the day at the Retiree Luncheon:

Registration and coffee.....	9 a.m.
Welcoming Remarks and update on Corps activities by Col. Robinson, new District Engineer.....	9:45 a.m.
Coffee Break.....	10:15 a.m.
No-host cocktails.....	11:15 a.m.
Buffet Luncheon.....	Noon
Induction Ceremony, Gallery of Distinguished Civilian.....	1 p.m.
Retirees Rap Session.....	2 p.m.
Closing Remarks.....	3 p.m.



**SPD COMMANDER LEAVING...** Brig. Gen. Milton Hunter, South Pacific Division commander has been reassigned as Division Engineer for the North Atlantic Division. He has been with SPD since November 1992. His replacement has not been named.

## Credit Union hires new manager



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Federal Credit Union Board of Directors is very pleased to announce the hiring of Ms. Maria Alvarez. She joined the credit union staff, Ms. Doris Hollister and Mr. Tjong Ik Kwa, on September 12, 1994.

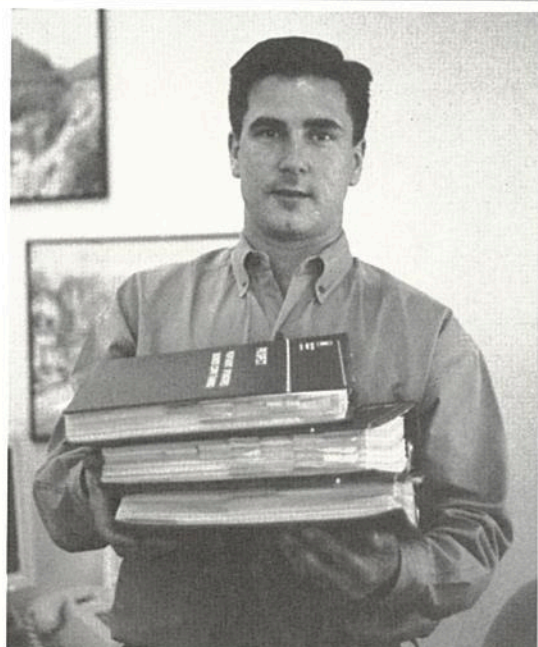
Maria has extensive experience in the credit union movement, including over 21 years with the Los Angeles Internal Revenue Employees Federal Credit Union (LAIRE). At LAIRE she worked as a cashier-teller, a loan officer-manager and assistant manager. Her last 11 years at LAIRE were spent as their General Manager. She has served on the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Credit Union League, holding the offices of vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. In addition, Maria is a graduate of the Western Credit Union National Association Management School.

Maria had left LAIRE three years ago to start her own wholesale business, but later realized she missed the credit union industry and wanted to come back. She was particularly interested in joining a small credit union which offered personalized service such as ours. Maria is enthusiastically looking towards renewing her credit union career as demonstrated by her declaration to the Board, "The opportunity and potential of managing a credit union the asset size of U.S. Engineers, is exciting and challenging."

Maria will work along side Doris, who recently expressed her desire to retire. Doris has agreed to stay on long enough to help break in the new manager. Doris and Maria have been friends for a long time and this association will certainly ease the transition.



# Happenings



*John E. Drake, Arizona/Nevada Area Office, is off to school. He will be attending the Programs and Planners Course.*

## Speakers sought to represent the District

Would you like to tell the District's story to the public? As part of the District's Outreach Program, the Public Affairs Office (PAO) is currently preparing a District Speaker's Bureau and is seeking subjects to talk about and personnel (to do the talking) who can represent the District at service clubs, schools, etc.

At the moment, many district employees receive requests and speak at various events and ceremonies throughout our area of responsibility. With the organizing of a Speaker's Bureau, the request for speakers will be channeled and coordinated through the District Public Affairs Office. When fully staffed, the PAO will assist in the drafting of speeches and collecting the necessary visuals to the presentation.

If you are interested in being a member of the District's Speaker's Bureau or have an idea of a subject that would be of interest to the public, give us a call at (213) 894-5320.

## In memory of ....

### Retirees

Sam Ackerman  
Betty Berger  
Louise Dixon  
Edgar J. Dunnigan  
Ronald S. Fletcher  
Jennie Galitzen  
Morris G. Graham  
Ed Hill  
Jean A. Hilst  
Rudy Kuhn  
Gordon Lilley  
Dillard Littenfield  
Angela Melandry  
Curtis Harmon Fuller  
Don Keane  
Robert Schaeffel  
William T. McCauley



## Recognizing Team Players



### Special Act Awards

Ira D. Young  
Mark F. Sudol

### Performance Awards

Donna M. Rathburn  
Antoinette E. Walker  
Neal Cooper  
Bernice Y. Fukuda  
Claudia T. Sickler  
Charles C. Van Norman, IV  
Jacqueline U. Jones

### On the Spot Awards

Annie L. Huie  
Dana Adame  
Phillip J. Serpa  
Lorelei R. Boswell  
Johnny Fong  
Alberto Garcia  
Nina Presley  
Edward B. Louie  
William J. Zeigler  
John D. Kouros  
James A. Fields  
Jennifer A. Baker



*congratulations!*



# Women's Memorial sights set on groundbreaking

**Fundraising success and widespread support  
leads to spring target date for groundbreaking**

**Washington, D.C.** -- The Women in Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. (WIMSA) has announced plans for groundbreaking for the Memorial in the Spring of 1995, pending completion of several key projects.

One of these projects is a successful effort in the 1994 Combined Federal Campaign. Each year, the Foundation has seen a steady increase in contributions. In 1992, gross CFC contributions to WIMSA totaled \$170,000. In 1993, that figure rose to \$210,000.

Another project is the Women in Military Service commemorative silver dollar, released in late July by the U.S. Mint. Surcharges from the sale of 500,000 specially minted silver dollars could raise as much as \$5 million, to be applied toward Memorial construction. The coins feature the profiles of five contemporary service women on one side and a depiction of the Memorial on the reverse. While sale of the coin will continue through April 30, 1995, Mint officials indicate that a low mintage could mean an early sell-out.

The Memorial also received a \$9.5 million grant for restoration of the existing structures at the site of the Memorial -- the gateway to Arlington National

Cemetery.

These projects, coupled with moneys in hand, and the continued generous support by individuals and organizations, are expected to raise the funds required to break ground in late spring, with construction soon after. Dedication is projected for 1997.

Efforts to build a memorial to America's service-women and women veterans began in 1986 with Congressional authorization. The Women's Memorial, through its computerized register, will honor all those who have served throughout history, as well as those who will serve in the future.

(Ed. Note Donations or pledges through the Combined Federal Campaign can be used to register a servicewoman. The Women In Military commemorative silver dollar can be purchased through the U.S. Mint's customer service center at 10001 Aerospace Road, Lanham, Maryland 20706, or by calling 1-800-777-VETS. For further information on the Women's Memorial, to include registration materials, please call 1-800-4-SALUTE or write to: WIMSA, Dept. 560, Washington, D.C. 20042-0560).



THE  
WOMEN'S  
MEMORIAL

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**Corps of Engineers**  
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