

The **Logistician**

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What's in this edition:

BUILDER Management System

Update: Property Scanner App

LPSS Team Training

Safety: Leg & Hip Injuries

Little Rock District Logistics Team: Tip of the Spear



Prentiss Neal and Tony Langford remove excess property from a warehouse in Little Rock. The supply technicians have helped the district shed \$2.5 million in excess property over the past year.

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Teamwork. Relationships. Dogged determination.

These are the words that come up constantly when you speak to the logistics team and personnel across the Little Rock District concerning their logistics support.

"Relationships matter," said Lt. Col. Chaton Warren, Deputy District Commander of Little Rock District. "We've pushed back \$2.5 million of excess equipment over the past year. That's not something that just happens. That's a lot of time, coordination, and effort to make that happen."

Warren says that much of the district's logistics team's success is in great part to the leadership of the District Logistics Manager Kylene Patton,

who has been leading the team for about a year.

"Her dogged determination to get stuff done is second to none. She is the tip of the spear," Warren said. "She's also been leaning forward on initiatives like getting the Purebred application installed on the phones of all hand receipts holders, a step necessary for the adoption of the new Asset-Track property scanner system (read more about this on page 6). To date, we are 100 percent in the district. She is the best hiring decision I have made in my entire career. Little Rock District is in good hands for years to come because of her."

While there is no doubt when watching the logistics team work on a project that

Patton's servant leadership is a key component to their successes, Patton insists that it's a team effort and she is grateful for her lineup in the logistics office.

"There is always something going on or projects due," said Patton. "As a team the office ensures we meet and exceed requirements. We cross train so if someone is out, we take care of our customers. We look out for each other, making sure not only is the mission being completed, but ensuring our health and welfare is taken care of as well. This team has a 'don't quit' attitude."

The logistics team is lauded across their district for their support. This includes finding innovative ways to ensure their customer can focus on the mission at hand.

"Everything from tech refresh to cell phones, to the acquisition for new infrastructure, to include the excess program and assistance with getting everything to its intended site, this office hears us," said James Ross, Chief Information Technology for the Little Rock District. "They help me to navigate the district requirements when they maybe don't align perfectly with what we would normally do. They help us get to 'yes' with the customers and mission in the front of our mind."

Prentiss Neal, Supply Technician for the Little Rock District, has been working with the logistics team since 2015. His longevity in the mission is a testament to the sense of accomplishment he feels supporting the district mission.

"We are close knit here in the office. I enjoy assisting and helping people in our district with property accountability. I



The Little Rock District logistics team removes excess property from a flooded warehouse.

like keeping everybody happy," said Neal. "I get a lot of satisfaction with the work I do here. I know every day that I've got the job done. I enjoy getting the chance to go out and meet people out at all the sites."

If longevity in the logistics

office is a meter for job satisfaction, look no further than Rhonda Black, Fleet Manager for the Little Rock District. She has been working with the team since 2002.

"When I first started here, I was just in awe in all of the dif-

ferent mission the Corps of Engineers has here,” said Black. “I believe we have more power houses than a lot of other districts. It’s such an unusual job working here, there’s nothing else like it.”

Black added that while her job had challenges, she enjoys making advances every day to align the district with national initiatives to reduce costs to the taxpayer and help the environment.

“We have so many lake area offices and field surges that are in the middle of nowhere. We also have a lot of unique vehicles to support the locks and dam power houses,” Black said. “It can be tough to work toward optimizing utilization and adopting electric vehi-

cle programs, but we look for opportunities where we can. Currently we are replacing two district vehicles with the plug-in hybrid vehicles. We are not at the point to manage fully electric yet, but we are making progress.”

About the Little Rock District: Little Rock District has been serving the Nation since 1881. Our district boundaries include Southern Missouri and most of Arkansas.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Little Rock District has unmatched experience as a planning, design, and construction agency. We have a "can-do" reputation for delivering a quality product on time within cost.

We are professionals in a wide range of disciplines who provide expertise in many areas. Engineering, environmental, real estate,

contracting and other needs associated with federal, state, and local programs can be met by our capable staff.

- We manage 750,000 acres of public lands and water
- We help preserve water quality through our permit program
- We produce enough electricity yearly at our projects to supply up to 400,000 households
- Our projects have prevented over \$2.6 billion in flood damage
- We are a national leader in water-based public recreation
- Our reservoirs store drinking water supplying many communities
- We manage \$6.5 billion worth of public infrastructure to include: 12 reservoirs, 13 navigation locks and dams, 7 hydroelectric power plants, 146 public parks, and 308 miles of navigation channels.



Rhonda Black, Fleet Manager for the Little Rock District, helps maneuver a ramp on a rental vehicle as part of work done to remove excess property from a district warehouse.

Build Strong, Maintain Strong: BUILDER Sustainment Management System

From Arthur Miller, Engineering Technician, Facilities Management Division (FMD)

The ULA adopted the BUILDER Sustainment Management System based on a 2013 DoD mandate. DoD was looking for a standardized process to capture reliable and consistent facility data to make sound strategic investment decisions when it comes to facilities and their assets.

Prior to the 2013 mandate each DoD component were using different methods to assess their facility conditions which resulted in a lack of credibility in the quality of data that they were receiving. By establishing a DoD-wide Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) process a more credible asset management program was created, which allowed each component to target needed resources to facilities that were the most in need of investment.

Beginning in 2016 FMD adopted the process that incorporated the Sustainment Management System (BUILDER) which was developed by the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC-CERL) as our FCA tool. By doing this our office could properly record each asset at our ULA managed facilities along with the required inspections of all their buildings with an initial facility condition assessment and follow-ups at 5-year increments from the date of the initial assessment. In our journey to begin to follow the DoD mandate we partnered with the Ft. Worth District to lead us in the efforts of performing these



Robert Hite makes notes of building conditions to update the BUILDER system during the recent Mississippi Valley Division Headquarters assessment. Courtesy photo.

Facility Condition Assessments. **What do our commanders need to know about proper use of BUILDER?**

Our commanders should know that using BUILDER is an important tool in providing the most efficient and cost-effective method for maintaining their facility. It also provides a more specific outlook on the needs of their facilities while optimizing the process for life cycle management and giving a better return on investment in maintaining their building infrastructure at an acceptable level. The information collected also allows the Commanders to make data-driven decisions based on more accurate data.

How is ULA using BUILDER to support USACE?

We take the information we acquire from each assess-

ment and use the data and metrics to develop long and short-range work plans. BUILDER also shows us how to make better sustainment, restoration and modernization decisions, which ensures mission readiness and provides our facility managers the precise data for improved allocation of limited maintenance funding.

How has the use of BUILDER supported district and division missions?

Once the real property data is collected, we provide our stakeholders with pertinent information that creates a comprehensive picture of the overall performance of their building assets. We give a detailed system inventory of their assets, predict the condition index of each system based on its expected stage in the life cycle of the asset, and

offer a knowledge-based inspection of their building systems down to a component level.

How has the use of BUILDER improved the logistics mission?

If used properly by our facility management teams in the field, they can realize the benefits of BUILDER to implement proactive asset management principles. For the system to calculate precise recommendations the field must keep up with an accurate asset inventory and share that information with our office as new assets are acquired. Based on the standards built into the system, using the facility assessment can assist our teams to properly request and secure funding for issues that were previously unidentified. Prior to BUILDER facility assets only gained attention when they would break, while other issues existed and were left to degrade. This drives home the fact that the basic principle of BUILDER: proactive condition assessments avoid reactive maintenance.

How do we fund the program?

As with every program funding is always an issue. The first round of assessments included Alaska, Rock Island, Galveston, Norfolk, Walla Walla, Mississippi Valley Division HQ, New Orleans, and Buffalo. We began our second round of assessments in 2022 at Walla Walla but due to dwindling funds it was determined that each district moving forward with follow-up assessments would be required to incur sharing the cost of labor and travel for the assessment team to perform their assessments.

Because of tighter resources our office has seen many of our facilities neglected,

forcing districts to move in a reactionary mode by responding to unexpected breakdowns and system failures. We will continue to do research on securing other means of funding or more cost sharing plans will have to take place.

Our next phase in the BUILDER process (Phase 2)

The outputs from BUILDER provide a valuable tool for districts to use in their Project Planning for repair or replacement of equipment. Moving past the planning phase, however, requires the validation of current and projected work actions, and the integration of individual component-level work items into the context of project packages.

During Phase 2, a multi-disciplined assessment team validates BUILDER's "planned" work items and capture any emergent requirements, code compliance issues, or command priorities identified by the district. This scope of work is captured by the assessment team and placed in the Corps of Engineers' Small Project Wizard. Architectural drawings, site plans, photos, and a Current Working Estimate are also included. The Phase 2 Work Package is an efficient and cost effective means for moving from the Project Planning phase to Project Programming. When the district procures design/construction funding for their projects, the Phase 2 Work Package will be coordinated and handed off to the district's chosen design and/or construction agent for final design and solicitation, providing a seamless transition from Project Programming to Project Design and Construction. Our first Phase 2 assessment was performed at Galveston District in conjunction with our partners

from the Ft. Worth District in November of 2022 which produced 13 Work Packages at a current working estimate of \$3.3 million dollars.

BUILDER represents a shift toward a proactive versus reactive asset management strategy. Instead of keeping assets operational throughout their lifecycle by relying primarily on corrective repairs, its strategy focuses on condition-based repairs/replacement which can be planned prior to an asset's failure. This results in higher performing assets at lower lifecycle costs. The use of BUILDER establishes a knowledge base that makes built infrastructure data more complete, consistent, reliable, and accessible.

Our point of contacts in FMD for Builder are Arthur Miller, Engineering Technician, and Indias Brown, Engineering Technician. Our team looks forward to expanding our BUILDER program to assist each facility team and District in the field to embrace the program and use it to their advantage.



Rudy Khalil conducts the Walla Walla District assessment. Courtesy photo.

AMI AssetTrack -The Future of Log Automation

From Scott Rollins, Logistics Management Specialist, Sustainment Division

The obsolescence of the Zebra MC55 barcode scanner and associated software is well established and has been communicated to the Corps of Engineers community since 2019. Fielding a replacement solution that is wireless, enhances the capability of the current system, accurately scans non-expendable personal property barcodes, integrates seamlessly with Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) Personal Property Management (PPM), and also meets the stringent IT requirements has been challenging. The Logistics Activity Sustainment Division in conjunction with the USACE Finance Center and Chief Information Office have taken this challenge head on. The solution is Asset Management International's AssetTrack application.

On target to be fielded in mid/late 2023, AssetTrack is a modified commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) barcode scanning application that will integrate seamlessly with iOS/Android government cellphones, the ServiceNow cloud, and CEFMS II PPM. It builds on the existing capabilities by providing the Primary Hand Receipt Holders with inventory information at their fingertips. Overages and shortages no longer must be pulled from the system of record – CEFMS II PPM. This information as well as pertinent catalog information can be viewed directly from the application, a massive time saver. The most significant



time saving feature is the wireless capability. Data will flow seamlessly from AssetTrack to CEFMS II PPM. The need to dock scanners, launch Windows Mobile Device Center, or configure WinSCP becomes a thing of the past.

The only cellphone software required for the system to operate is AssetTrack and Purebred. Purebred is the credential issuance system for DoD providing certificates that allow users to access DoD Public Key-enabled sites from their mobile devices. The Purebred mobile apps enable users to securely obtain certificates for use on mobile platforms including Apple iOS and Android. Purebred is also required to send encrypted emails and run Microsoft Teams. Since multi-user mode is not authorized, anyone required to scan USACE personal property barcodes will need to have a government cellphone.

AssetTrack is currently going through User Acceptance Testing (UAT). This is a critical step in the process and allows USACE to put the application through rigorous testing. The user interface is assessed for aesthetics and functionality. Moreover, and perhaps most importantly, the application is

tested for barcode scanning performance and how data is ingested by CEFMS II PPM. The primary question is: are expected, overages, and shortages by district and Hand Receipt Account (HRA) being accurately recorded in CEFMS II PPM? From UAT the project will move into a "soft launch" phase where Memphis District will test the applications in a production environment.

After a successful soft launch, several key districts will participate in an assessment. This phase will rigorously test the application in a production environment. When the assessment is completed, the project will move into the first phase of fielding known as Initial Operating Capability (IOC). The tentative timeline to begin IOC is summer '23. After IOC the project will move into Full Operating Capability (FOC) which is projected to start fall '23. Throughout this entire process feedback will be solicited to ensure USACE fields a state-of-the-art user-friendly barcode scanning application. Training will also be a key element in the successful fielding of AssetTrack. Each major milestone has training scheduled "before" the actual event (e.g., Assessment, IOC, FOC)

The Zebra MC55 and associated software has served USACE well since 2009. It has provided USACE with many years of reliable service. USACE will build on this legacy to provide its customers with an even better barcode scanning solution – AssetTrack.



Logistics Activity Hosts Training for Logistics Power Support Specialist Teams



Nancy Church, Program Power Manager, speaks to the Logistics Power Support Specialist class about the importance of the team mission. The training was held in February with more than 20 participants from across the nation attending.

“If you’ve supported one disaster, you’ve been to exactly one disaster...because no two are alike.”

This was the message Nancy Church, Program Power Manager, during a recent Logistics Power Support Specialist (LPSS) Team training with the USACE Logistics Activity (ULA) in Millington, Tennessee.

“I get excited about this mission,” said Church. “For power, the window of opportuni-

ty to support the disaster is very small. The utility companies are generally good at restoring power within a few days. But in the meantime, we are supporting critical infrastructure that is literally saving lives.”

Whether it’s keeping hospitals or fire stations running, the LPSS mission is critical in the first hours and days following an emergency. And emergencies can be varied. From wind to ice to rain, in almost

every disaster the power grid is affected.

“The reason our mission is hard is because we show up in the worst of times and must quickly get power up and running.” Said Church. “Power, of all the lifelines in an emergency, touches all the lifelines in an emergency.”

The training was attended by more than 20 personnel ranging in experience from more

than a decade to brand new to the team.

“So, there is a lot of experience here in this room. But we are working to build our bench. We have strategic nodes that we have to deploy other emergency teams to,” said Brad William, ULA Operations. “The LPSS is there to support the power teams. It doesn’t matter what the event, the power is probably going to go out. There are many different locations and situations where you may end up supporting the power teams. These teams fill the logistics gaps in the power teams.”

Working on the LPSS team can be challenging but rewarding. And seasoned team member Jennifer Hollis-Mayweather knows all too well to be ready for anything.

“The most important takeaway from the recent LPSS training was that no disaster is the same,” said Hollis-Mayweather. “We need to ensure we have trained personnel during the pre-declaration prepared to provide temporary

power to critical facilities after the catastrophe has made land-fall.”

Hollis-Mayweather has been with the LPSS Team since 2018 and in that time she has supported many emergencies.

“I deployed to Saipan in 2018 to support Typhoon Yutu, working in the Incident Support Base (ISB) supporting the Power Team,” said Hollis-Mayweather. “I deployed to Baton Rouge in 2021 to support Hurricane Ida/Fiona, working with the Power Team at the Generator Staging Base (GSB). And I deployed to South Atlantic District in 2022, working in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to support Hurricane Ian and Fiona and to Puerto Rico to support the Power Team in preparations for the blackout.”

Hollis Mayweather recognizes the impact her efforts have made to disaster-stricken areas.

“The LPSS mission is vital because the logistics specialist that is a part of the Logistics Planning and Response Team

(LPRT) doesn’t have the institutional logistics knowledge that the LPSS has,” Hollis-Mayweather said. “The LPSS assists with property accountability from the cradle to grave and can start looking for and acquiring lodging for incoming emergency response personnel.”

How to join the LPSS cadre:

- ULA FUOPs welcomes any USACE logistician who wants to join the Logistics Power Support Specialist (LPSS) cadre!
- There are multiple tasks to complete in order to join the cadre.
- The process for joining the LPSS cadre is similar to our LPRT with a few additional prerequisite course requirements.
- For questions about joining LPSS, please contact the ULA Future Operations Branch Readiness Coordinator Ms. Jackie Phillips at Jackie.Phillips@usace.army.mil.



Norbert Zimmermann discusses the diversity of events for which LPSS teams may be called upon to support throughout the year. During the training, the course discussed everything from ice, to wind, to flooding.



Safety and Occupational Health



Leg and Hip Injuries Safety Awareness - Safety Gram Hazard Analysis and Countermeasures



Don't be fooled, 'Ahh my hip' is a phrase even the youth can shout. So what is it about hip injuries that causes pain, and how is it possible to get to a point where that pain no longer exists?

The most common exercises that can help hip injuries are:

- Leg raises
- Hip abductions
- Hip adductions
- Gluteal sets
- Hamstring curls
- Quadriceps sets
- Straight leg raises
- Bridges
- Wall slides
- Knee to chest stretch
- Figure four stretch
- Piriformis stretch
- Pigeon pose stretch
- Cat-cow pose stretches
- Seated hamstring stretch

These are just a few of the many exercises that can help hip injuries, but depending on the severity of your injury, you may need to consult with a physiotherapist or doctor to get specific exercises tailored to your needs.



Leg & Hip Injuries

Leg & Hip Injuries Awareness video info:



For more health and safety information, visit:
<https://usace.dps.mil/sites/INTRA-ULA/SitePages/Safety.aspx>



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