



Information Bulletin

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Engineer Research and
Development Center

Topographic Engineering Center

*U.S. Army 1999 Research & Development
Organization of the Year*

Sept. 21, 2000
Number 00-38

OFFICIAL

ERDC PIO for Installations named

Lt. Col. William F. Buechter is the new ERDC Program Integration Officer for Installations. He is located at CERL.

CERL Acting Director

Mr. William D. Goran became Acting Director of CERL on Sept. 11. He will fill this position until a permanent Director is selected or up to 240 days.

National Deaf Awareness Week

Deaf Awareness Week is celebrated every fourth week of September. During this time, people are encouraged to learn about the accomplishments of famous deaf people and to help educate others about the concerns of the deaf community.

Study famous deaf Americans at <http://www.wpsd.org/deafawareness/deafawareness.html>. Learn which deaf Americans: started the Girl Scouts; won the Miss American title in 1995; as a lifeguard, saved 907 people - a Guinness Record; led the National League with 82 stolen bases; was a war hero and captain of a company in the Texas Rangers.

Many people know about Gallaudet University -- the world's only university in which all programs and services are specifically designed to accommodate deaf and hard of hearing students (<http://www2.gallaudet.edu/>). But you may not know about the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at <http://www.rit.edu/~418www/new/NTID.html>. It is one of the seven colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), <http://www.rit.edu/Academics/colleges.html> and is the world's first and largest technological college for deaf students.

A good place to start learning about deaf issues and culture is <http://deafness.about.com/health/deafness/mbody.htm>.

Many deaf people communicate using American Sign Language (ASL). It is the third most used language in America. Even hearing people can use ASL. For example, divers can use ASL to communicate underwater. (Richard Detsch, CRREL, Geophysical Sciences Division, (603) 646-4625, <http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/gpd/index.html>)

LES available for viewing on WWW

Your Leave and Earning Statement (LES) can now be viewed electronically through the Employee/Member Self Service (E/MSS) Defense Finance and Accounting System payroll system. To do so, go on the Internet to <http://emss.dfas.mil>. If you haven't already done so, customize your temporary PIN. Your system must support 128-bit encryption and Secure Socket

Layer (SSL) technology. If your system doesn't, go online and download the program and run the setup.

Remember, you may view your LES the week of payday, but your funds have not been deposited just because you can read your statement. Payday is still payday! Questions may be directed to the Customer Support Unit at 1-800-390-2348.

Army Benefits Center

Effective immediately, the Army Benefits Center will offer civilian employees 24-hour access to coverage of their benefits and entitlements through the Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS) and the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). To access the EBIS, go to <http://www.abc.army.mil>. To access IVRS, call the toll-free number, 1-877-ARMY CTR (276-9287). You will need your Social Security Number and a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Initially, your PIN will be your month and year of birth (MMYY). You should change this PIN once you've accessed the system.

The EBIS transaction page allows you to create or replace your PIN; conduct on-line benefits transactions for Federal Employee Health Benefits; as well as transactions for FEGLI, retirement, and Thrift Savings Plan.

The IVRS is menu driven to allow access with a touch-tone phone. You may also talk to a benefits counselor between 7 a.m.-5 p.m. (Central), Monday-Friday.

Departure

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>EOD</u>
Christian Berger	GID	Sept. 30

Travel Update

Here is the current schedule for approving travel in CEFMS:

Sept. 25-29	Betty O'Donnell	Hanover Site	(603) 646-4355
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The ERDC travel web page is now available at <http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/lmo/travel/index.htm>.

As always, if you have a question, please contact your local travel specialist. In the event she is not available, you may contact any ERDC travel specialist.

Headquarters USACE Info on ERDC Intranet

Information on the new Corps of Engineers Headquarters Building has now been placed on the ERDC Intranet at <http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/usacehq/>. Information includes maps, driving directions, office layouts and other useful information.

ERDC Exhibit Chart Now on Intranet

The FY01 ERDC Exhibit Chart is now up on the ERDC Intranet at <http://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/command/index.htm>. The chart outlines ERDC exhibit strategy for the upcoming fiscal year. If you know of ERDC activities at other conferences or conferences that should be considered for exhibit purposes, please send the information to Jennifer King at the Vicksburg site Public Affairs Office.

Commander's Mailbox

ERDC team members are reminded that an electronic mailbox has been established to allow employees to send questions and/or comments to the Commander. If an employee wishes to remain anonymous, his or her name will be deleted from the question before it is forwarded to the Commander for comment. Employees' questions will be answered via return e-mail.

Answers to anonymous and frequently asked questions will be posted in the Employee Information Bulletin.

The address in Outlook is, "ERDC Commander." Again, all information is kept strictly confidential and all questions are addressed directly by the Commander.

ERDC Publications on Internet

The ERDC Publication Bulletin serves as the official notification of new ERDC forms and publication, as well as rescissions or changes to existing forms or publications. As of Sept. 10, 1999, ERDC official publications ceased to be printed (i.e., Center Regulations, Circulars, Pamphlets, or Commander's Policy Memoranda). All ERDC official publications are now distributed in electronic format on the ERDC web site located at <http://erdc.usace.army.mil/pubs/index.htm>.

ERDC News Releases Now on Internet

ERDC News Releases are now on the Internet at <http://www.erd.usace.army.mil/news.html>. New releases will be added as they are released to the media. Please visit this site for the latest ERDC News. (Jennifer L. King, ERDC PAO, (601) 634-2505)

ERDC Job Vacancies

Reminder: Information on all current ERDC job vacancies can be found on the ERDC Intranet at <http://erdinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/hr/vacancies/index.htm>. All job announcements are also posted at the CPOL web site <http://www.cpol.army.mil/va/scripts/public.html> and at the OPM USAJobs web site at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/a9.htm>.

FOR THE DIRECTOR

JACKIE L. BRYANT
Public Affairs Office

U N O F F I C I A L

TEC Golf Tourney Results

We golfers are die hard, and we did . . . die hard that is. The golf tournament was won by John Neander and Tropical Depression "TD" Gordon, who washed out the field of 76 golfers before some could get half their round in. The 2000 event will not be rescheduled. (Mike Collins)