



Information Bulletin

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

Topographic Engineering Center

*2002 Research and Development
Organization of the Year*

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OFFICIAL

Dr. Houston accepts 2002 R&D Award

Dr. Houston accepted the 2002 Army Large R&D Organization of the Year award for ERDC at the Army Science Conference in Orlando, Fla., Dec. 2. The Honorable Claude M. Bolton, assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, and Dr. Michael Andrews, deputy assistant secretary for Research and Technology, presented the award.

ERDC was recognized for numerous contributions, including the development of modeling tools that analyze building vulnerability to terrorist threats to assist in designing protective measures. ERDC also was honored for producing the third generation of the TeleEngineering Communications System, which facilitates real-time engineering support to deployed military forces.

Twenty-one Army labs and research centers were eligible for the award. As an indication of the level of competition, the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center finished second after, among other things, having developed the highly publicized Hellfire Missile that has been fired by the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in Afghanistan. Approximately 1,175 individuals attended the award presentation.

Chief's Holiday Message

Throughout this year, I've been pleased to see Corps people reaching out to help each other. "*The Corps takes care of its own*" has been a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers principle for as long as anyone can remember, and we saw it in action again this year.

When Hurricane Lili seemed to take dead-aim at New Orleans District, Corps planning and preparation kicked in to transfer their missions to Memphis District. Fortunately, the storm missed New Orleans, and quickly fell from a Category 4 to a Category 2 hurricane. But the situation proved that if we have a "victim district" during a disaster, other districts could step in and take the load.

Another example of the Corps taking care of its own is in Southwestern Division (SWD). SWD has created a Critical Incident Stress Management program that provides peer counselors to help their people deal with on-the-job trauma.

That attitude of helping others extends outside the Corps, as well. In the past year, we played a major role in cleaning up the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. In New York City, the Federal Emergency Management Agency tapped the Corps immediately for our

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expertise in debris removal. With our help, the partnership of agencies removed the debris from Ground Zero months ahead of schedule and \$55 million under budget.

The Corps also assisted in the efforts to manage the Staten Island Landfill, a search and disposal location for tons of debris. Through its prime contractor, the Corps mechanized the operation and provided other assistance to facilitate the search, which identified and accounted for 500 victims of the terrorist attack.

Those actions helped speed the healing process for our nation after Sept. 11. In addition, Baltimore District is managing the competition to select a design for a memorial to honor those who died when the airliner struck the Pentagon.

The Corps also is taking steps to make sure such tragedies never happen again. We are committed to homeland security, and to preparing for and preventing future attacks. For example, the Corps is a valued member of The Infrastructure Security Partnership, a group of public and private organizations that work together on issues related to the security of the nation's built infrastructure. We recently took part in the first Annual Congress on Infrastructure Security in the Built Environment.

And elsewhere...

Thanks to Europe District, the Republic of Georgia has better security as their Border Patrol flies helicopters from renovated hangars.

Thanks to L.A. District, Los Angeles now has greater flood protection.

Thanks to Kansas City District, Jasper County has no lead contamination in their residential yards.

Thanks to Corps people, U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan have electrical power, real estate negotiation service, and construction service. And humanitarian projects that we assist are helping the Afghani people recover from the traumas of war and a repressive regime.

As for the future, people throughout the Corps are learning the Project Management Business Process, the system that is revolutionizing how the Corps does business. We are becoming a Learning Organization where we will share lessons learned across the entire Corps.

In the environment, our seven Environmental Operating Principles are sharpening and guiding our commitment to protect and restore the natural world.

All these and much more demonstrates the combination of personal caring and professional expertise that our people bring to their work. I'm very proud of what you have accomplished, and of the difference you have made in the nation, and in the world.

The coming year will bring more challenges. But I have no doubt that if we keep taking care of each other, keep changing as an organization, and maintain our unique blend of personal compassion and technical expertise, we will face those challenges as well as we always have in the past.

To prepare for those challenges, take time off this holiday season, relax, and enjoy being with your family and friends. Nothing is more precious than time spent with loved ones.

My family joins me in wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season, and a happy, prosperous New Year.

Essayons!

ROBERT B. FLOWERS
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

TEC Security Efforts

By Thomas Cain, Chief, TEC Security Force

As a result of the devastating terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, ERDC has reshaped its security world. Once what were emergency procedures and countermeasures have now evolved into normal day-to-day operating standards. The continued safety of our team members, facilities and resources became the essence of the security section and the approach that was deployed. Conducting a comprehensive threat assessment with the assistance of the 902d Military Intelligence Group and other intelligence organizations a complete picture of the security environment was created.

Within weeks, a guardhouse was purchased and installed at the entrance to the sites' compound. Implementing 100 percent identification checks for all visitors, the security team members immediately installed an additional layer of security to the entire site grounds. ERDC Security Director Mr. Bill Roth with the assistance of all Security Managers compiled a list of recommended security upgrades, which identified costs installation and upgrade priorities. Requesting funding from USACE, in September 2002, ERDC was awarded more than \$3 million for the physical security upgrades, which includes surveillance systems, traffic control barriers, perimeter fencing and permanent bullet-resistant guard shelters.

Phase One Upgrades

According to Roth, ERDC has entered into phase one of the security upgrades, and over the next nine to 12 months will see the completion of the security improvements in relationship to the perimeter security of all sites. Recognizing physical security is more than just hardware, barriers and fences, Martha Bishop, ERDC-Alexandria site security manager, instituted efforts to increase security awareness and personal safety. "All security team members are involved in maintaining a security presence creating a secure environment for all employees and visitors to the compound," Bishop said. "In fostering a climate of cooperation with local agencies, security experts have been invited to share information and security tips for the continuing safety of our team members".

Not forgetting that every day crime opportunities exist, Bishop and her security staff with the support of local law enforcement organizations are designing a crime prevention program that not only addresses the work environment, but personal travel and residence safety. An essential element of this endeavor is the publication of a TEC security information bulletin. Cathy Simpler, Security Specialist, under the direction of the security manager and with the assistance of other security team members, disseminates this quarterly bulletin, which contains security and safety items of interest.

Future Upgrades

With upgrades in progress, phase one should be completed on time. Future upgrades will focus on interior access controls and increasing Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS). An additional \$2 million has been requested to ensure that all internal security concerns are adequately addressed. Provisions are being made to implement procedures to commence with the issuing of the new common access card (CAC). Once the logistic has been established security will begin issuing CACs to team members.

The entire work community has been extremely supportive of the security's efforts to effectively accomplish the task of maintaining the safety and well being of co-workers. Without this support the success the organization experienced in the past year would never have been accomplished. We in security look forward to another year of cooperation and shared success.

Thrift Saving Plan Catch-up Bill Passes

The Senate has joined the House in passing and sending to President Bush for his expected signature a bill (HR-3340) that would provide the opportunity that many more senior federal employees to boost their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts. The bill would let TSP participants age 50 and older make “catch-up” contributions--on top of the regular TSP investments allowed--to the retirement savings program of an additional \$2,000 in 2003, with the allowable amount rising by \$1,000 a year until reaching \$5,000 a year in 2006 and adjusted for inflation afterward. While a tax law enacted in 2001 allowed such contributions for private sector participants in similar tax-favored plans, for technical reasons separate legislation was required to make the opportunity available to TSP participants. The TSP expects to allow employees to make such payments-which will have to be made through payroll withholding-effective with the TSP open season that begins April 15, 2003.

How to Make a Website Button on Your (Windows) Desktop

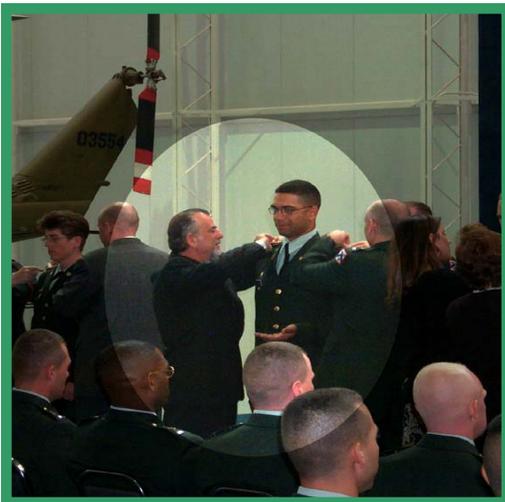
You can make a direct link to any web page from your Windows PC desktop by following the steps outlined in the document located at: <https://erdcinfo.erd.usace.army.mil/im/howto/PCwebsitebutton.pdf>. This works for recent versions of Internet Explorer, Netscape, and Mozilla.

Departure

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>EOD</u>
Paul Bourget	TR-G	Dec. 14

New Warrant Officers

Former enlisted soldiers SSgt. Jason Feser and Sgt. Brad Clement of the Field Support Team (FST) recently were promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer during a ceremony at Fort Rucker, Ala.



Fred Pessaro (I) FST, pins WO Feser's insignia.



Pessaro congratulates WO Clement.

Turner Promoted to Sergeant First Class

Brig. Gen. Randal Castro, Commandant of the Engineer School, presided at the promotion of SFC Robert Turner recently. The general made the audience and Sherrie Turner laugh when he told her following the ceremony, “One of us gets to shake his hand and the other gets to kiss him.” (Photo by Terri Stowell.)



Handling Calls from the Media

When you receive calls from media representatives (local reporters, technical, trade, or general news media), please refer the caller to the Public Affairs Office (PAO) before responding to any questions. PAO will work with you, the reporter, and our command staff to determine how TEC as an organization can best respond. PAO will arrange an interview between you and the reporter if appropriate, and will answer any follow-up calls. This procedure will help TEC personnel prepare properly for answering media questions.

The intention of this request is not to restrict anyone’s freedom to speak to the press. It will, however, ensure all concerned, when speaking as representatives of TEC, have the big picture and a complete background on the issue at hand. It also ensures the coordination with our executive staff, who are ultimately responsible for the image portrayed by TEC to the press.

Bulletin Publication Change

With the establishment of an ERDC-wide Information Bulletin, which will be published every 2 weeks, individual site Bulletins will now be published in the “off” weeks. Please keep this in mind when submitting articles and information for the site Bulletin. The next Alexandria Site Information Bulletin will be published on Jan 9.

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.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

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BOBBIE J. GALFORD
Chief, Public Affairs Office
Engineer Research and Development Center

UNOFFICIAL

Toy's for Tots

TEC REC will be collecting for the “Toys for Tots” program sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve. If you care to participate, purchase a toy for a child and place the unwrapped gift under the tree located in either lobby. This year’s drive will run through Dec. 17.



Max Roos and Sara Quesenberry share tree-trimming duty. (Photo by Terri Stowell.)

Farewell to Rick

Members of the Data Representation Branch gathered recently to bid farewell to Rick Charles. Seated l to r: Marshall Brody, Dale Dodson, Elia Breaux, Todd Sims. Standing (l to r): John Neander, Vineet Gupta, Rick, Tom Jorgensen and Arun Shrestha (student). (Photo by Terri Stowell.)



For Sale

Four Firestone all season radial tires, size 205/65/15. Good condition, \$50 for all four or \$15 each. Call (703) 680-2119 or 428-6693.

Never used Riedell Ladies Ice/Figure Skates, size 5 (fits shoe size 6-6 ½), \$75. Contact Wanda Hart at 428-6869 or ICOM 2513.