



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

Information Bulletin

Topographic Engineering Center

*2002 Army Research and Development
Organization of the Year*

May 5, 2003
Number 08-03

OFFICIAL

Public Service Recognition Week

May 5-11 is Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW). The Theme for the 2003 PSRW celebration is "Celebrating Government Workers Nationwide." Below is President Bush's greeting for PSRW.

I send greetings to those celebrating Public Service Recognition Week.

Public service is vital to the American character. Americans realize that giving something back to our communities strengthens our country and fulfills our obligation to serve a greater cause. Our Nation is deeply indebted to the men and women who devote themselves to public service through their careers.

Everyday across America, government employees at the Federal, State, and local levels carry out countless responsibilities that help protect our homeland, maintain critical services, ensure economic growth, and strengthen our national security. With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, more than 170,000 dedicated public servants are not tasked with the overriding mission of protecting their fellow Americans from terrorism. These individuals serve our citizens and help make our government more efficient and effective.

Over the last two years, my Administration has taken significant action to encourage public service and civic engagement. Americans have responded with an outpouring of kindness and volunteer service that is transforming our Nation, one heart, one soul at a time. Through the USA Freedom Corps, we continue to mobilize our citizens and provide opportunities for individuals to improve their communities by serving in local schools, libraries, police and fire departments, places of worship, and hospitals. We are grateful for these dedicated citizens and for all public servants who touch lives, inspire others and help us realize the promise and potential of our great Nation.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a wonderful week.

George W. Bush

2002 Army R&D Organization of the Year

PBX to Replace Tadiran Telephone System

ITL/TEC hosted a PBX kick off meeting on May 1. This meeting introduced all players involved in the replacement of the Tadiran telephone system, which has been onsite since 1991. The new system is being obtained through the DSSMP (Digital Switch Systems Modernization Program). The identifying needs process started in February 2001. Vendor site surveys took place in December 2002 and the proposals were reviewed January 2003. A contract was awarded to Halifax Corp. in March 2003 to install an Avaya Definity 3si pbx telephone switch. The projected schedule for replacement is late August 2003.



Members of the PBX Kick Off Meeting from 1 to r: Flora Marshall, Program Manager – Defense Communications Systems CONUS, Carole Nevitt, TEC Site Coordinator, Conrad Rabalais, Acting Chief, Communications Infrastructure and Architecture Branch, ITL Vicksburg, Bob Sweigart, TEC Alternate Site Coordinator and Carl Hall, Engineer, Information System Engineering Command, Fort Detrick. (Photo by Terri Stowell.)

Upcoming Events

May 8	Town Hall Meeting – 9-11 a.m. - Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3
May 9	HECSA Blood Drive – 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Casey Building Rooms 140 A and B
June 11	Engineer Day Ceremony – 9 a.m.-Noon – Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3
June 27	Open House 10-11 a.m. and Picnic – 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

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 May 15.

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, which is ultimately responsible for the image portrayed by TEC to the press.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

//s//

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

UNOFFICIAL

Your Blood Donation May Hold a Second Special Gift

On May 9, many of you, as whole blood donors will have an opportunity to give the "Gift of Life" at the HECSA Blood Drive. Some of you could also at another time, have an opportunity to give another "gift", special cells in your blood that could extend the life of someone with cancer, a blood disease or in need of a bone marrow transplant.

These special cells, known as platelets are a clotting factor in blood. People undergoing treatment for the above-mentioned illnesses and others have difficulty producing enough of these cells, which could result in life-threatening hemorrhaging. But thanks to the generosity of people like Teresa (Terri) Lake, a program analyst, OTD, patients can gain more time for treatments to take effect or cures to possibly be discovered for their illnesses.

Terri has been a platelet donor for 10 years and a whole blood donor for 18 years. "I donate because I believe it's just a good thing to do. I think there's a lack of awareness about platelet donation and how



Terri Lake (Photo by Terri Stowell.)

much it benefits people whose lives are in imminent danger,” she said. “I can’t image how difficult it must be to have to live in constant fear. The sad fact is that generally, children makeup the largest population of platelet recipients,” she explained.

Because the body replenishes platelets more quickly than whole blood, individuals can make a donation every 2 weeks. The American Red Cross cautions that donations should not occur more than 24 times a year.

Process

In order to collect these cells, a process known as apheresis is used. During the extraction procedure, either one or two blood donation needles may be inserted in the arm(s). Then, the blood is circulated through an apheresis instrument, which extracts the platelets (or plasma, another much needed blood product). All of the blood, minus the platelets is returned to the body via the single or double arm technique. The process takes approximately 2 hours as opposed to the 30 minutes that a typical whole blood donation takes. Unlike whole blood, which has a shelf life of approximately 30 days, platelets must be used within 5 days of collection.

Immediate Need

Terri recalls an incident when she received a telephone call asking her availability to donate platelets within the next few hours because someone had hit a crisis moment and there were no platelets in the blood bank. “The need was so critical that a driver waited in the room while I donated and immediately left to deliver the platelets to the designated recipient.”

Unlike organ donation, where the recipient can at times be known, platelet donors almost never know the recipient of their life-saving gift. “Some people require platelets so often and receive them from so many different people, it’s difficult to exactly pinpoint the donor or recipient,” Terri said. This past Christmas, donors at the Fairfax Center were given a gift tag that could be used to write a message to children who were to receive their platelets. Then, the tag was attached to a stuffed animal.

Benefits

In addition to the good feeling you’ll get from donating, there are other benefits: you can relax, watch a movie, read a book or chat with other donors or medical personnel; eat cookies and drink soda; and after your third donation, be typed for the National Marrow Donor Program Registry for free.

This week, you could make twice the difference in someone’s life by participating in the blood drive. For more information on the HECSA Blood Drive, contact Linda Bartlett at 428-7379. A signup sheet is located in Room 110-A. For more information on platelet donation, contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Book Presentation

Following the town hall meeting on May 8, Mr. Abraham Anson (Lt. Col. USAR) is scheduled to present a copy of his most recent book “Topographic Mapping With Plane Table and Alidade in the 1940s”to Mr. Burkhardt for the enjoyment of TEC members. Mr. Anson, 91 years young, retired from ETL/TEC in the early 1970s. The book, published by *Professional Surveyors Publishing Co. Inc* is on a CD/PDF.

ASMC Luncheon Slated for May 8

The Mount Vernon Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) will be hosting their May luncheon at the Mount Vernon Inn on May 8 at 11:30 a.m. Chapter scholarships will be awarded to honored high school students and votes will be cast for next year's Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) members.

The cost is \$13 for members and \$14 for non-members. If you are interested in attending the luncheon, contact Steven Breyfogle via e-mail (<mailto:steven.breyfogle@inscom.army.mil>) NLT COB May 6 (be sure to specify your menu option). All ERDC, TEC, and AAA members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

ASMC is a non-profit educational and professional organization for military and civilian personnel involved in or having an interest in military comptrollership. ASMC promotes the education and training of its members and supports the development and advancement of the profession of military comptrollership. Non-members are encouraged to join the Mount Vernon Chapter of ASMC.



ASMC May 03
Luncheon.ppt



Flyin' Low

During his spare time, Sgt. George Gilbert of TEC's Security Force enjoys photography. George shot these photos of a crop duster near his North Carolina home.

