ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

ESPRIT

VOL.26 NO.12 December 1989

Merry Christmas

Once again the holiday season, a time filled with the sights and sounds of Christmas, the closeness of family and the spirit of giving, is upon us.

As we look back at the last year and the past decade, you should be extremely proud of your accomplishments. All of you, no matter where you are in the District, were critical to whatever success we have enjoyed.

From Clarence Cannon Dam and Mark Twain Lake to Mel Price Locks and Dam, from the flood fights of '83 and '86 to the low water of '88 and '89, the past decade has been one of accomplishment. We can take pride in being part of an organization that consistently achieves excellence.

The next year and the upcoming decade will be every bit as challenging. Together, as a team, I'm sure you will rise to every opportunity as successfully as we have in the past.

My special thanks to each of you personally for the job you've done during 1989 and the decade of the 80s, and to your families for their support and help. Without them none of this would have been possible.

My family and I extend our best wishes to you and your loved ones for a SAFE and JOYOUS holiday season and a wonderful new year.

James E. Robin

Corbin's Comments by Col. James E. Corbin

Hi! I'm almost on time for a change.

It's that time of year again, the holiday season, where we all do our best to wear ourselves out having a good time and amassing enough bills to put us in debt the rest of the year! Just kidding - I hope! Please be careful. You're fantastic folks. Even your kids like you and your relatives, so treat yourself accordingly. Stay in one piece. You're important to all of us.

I thought I would spend a minute and review the year past for us. If I don't address something I should, or fail to mention your part of the District, it doesn't mean you aren't important, more likely it means senility has set in. Seriously, there are far too many high points, but let me just mention a few.

Several of you have received national Corps, Division, District or local recognition -- all well deserved. We've given out approximately $620,000 in awards this year to 1096 folks. Some of you received multiple awards -- that's fantastic. Keep it up -- you deserve the recognition. There have been hundreds of other awards presented to folks ranging from letters to Commander's Awards. Keep up the good work. Our country needs you -- even if sometimes it has a funny way of telling you that.

Safety has been relatively good. We need to get better, but you're trying and that's all I can ask of you. I recognize that I won't be satisfied unless we go through a year without anyone being hurt.

A special tip-of-the-hat goes to the folks at the Service Base who have been working round the clock to try to keep L&D 26 and Locks 27 operational. You guys have done an absolutely fantastic job. Thanks!

A second tip-of-the-hat goes to the folks on the dredges, ours and NCD's and LMVD's, and on the Pathfinder who have been keeping the channel maintained. You've done a marvelous job, one of which you should be deeply proud.

Dave Leake, Owen Dutt, Tim Brophy, Dave Gates, Tom Keevin and others (notice I didn't say Terry Norris. Terry is it really true you're only 40? You sure look older), and even Terry et al. have done a fantastic job on the Plan of Study, all things environmental and most things archaeological. Dan, Susan and Sonny, you're included as well, I just didn't want to mention you in the same sentence with Terry. I'm sure I missed some folks. Don't be offended please. Remember colonels get a frontal lobotomy on promotion and when that's coupled with senility, you just don't remember all the

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US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

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Alternative Work Schedules

To date, 462 employees have made an Alternative Work Schedule selection. Three hundred six employees have selected a 5/4/9 work schedule and 146 have selected the 10/4 option. Ten employees have selected the 30 minute lunch option only, while 373 have selected the 30 minute lunch option in conjunction with their 5/4/9 or 10/4 choice. There have been 25 employees who have made changes to their initial AWS selection, most returning to flexitime. Most of those returning to flexitime had been on a 5/4/9 schedule.

The following is noted for our major organizations:

Engineering Division:
Number selecting 5/4/9 option: 88
Number selecting 10/4 option: 17
Total: 105
Number selecting 30 minute lunch option only: 2

Operations Division:
Number selecting 5/4/9 option: 102
Number selecting 10/4 option: 92
Total: 194

General feedback and comments thus far indicates that, although AWS causes some scheduling and coordination problems, it has been favorably received by most.

FIT TO WIN Program

After many months of activity, we thought you might be interested in the current status of the FIT TO WIN Program.

To date, 406 employees have requested a FIT TO WIN Packet. For Phase I, the medical and fitness screening phase, 279 employees have chosen to be tested by the Public Health Service and 248 have proceeded to Phase II, the structure exercise phase of the program.

There were 171 employees who used the Downtown YMCA in St. Louis and 77 who used one of the ten different Fitness Centers contracted for at our field sites.

While many employees are nearing completion of Phase II, we have had 55 who have taken advantage of the Phase III part of the program, i.e., electing to continue with a one year membership in an approved Fitness Center of their choice.

Since the start of the FIT TO WIN Program, several employees, during the health and fitness screening phase, were advised of significant health related problems they were unaware of. Others have lost weight and improved fitness.

The overall program is an obvious success. For the future, we seek to interest new enrollees, keep and increase interest in Phase III and to provide health seminars that will continue to assist employees on being and staying healthy.

1989 Construction Inspectors lauded

Richard Ubben of the Greater St. Louis Resident Office and David Buatte of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam Project have been honored for their excellent performance as construction inspectors/representatives for the St. Louis District.

Colonel Corbin, District Commander, presented the two with plaques and certificates acknowledging their performance on the job at a luncheon held at the Melvin Price Support Center.

Display ideas sought

Is there someone out there you know who collects models, pictures or stamps of inland riverboats in their spare time? Or someone who photographs the waterfowl of the Mississippi Waterway? Or historic maps of the Big Muddy? Or rocks and minerals of its shores?

The technical library is planning winter and spring displays in the 9th floor facility and wants to hear from District personnel. Call Art Taylor with your ideas at 3-5675. The current December library display includes 19th century riverboat reproductions from Currier & Ives and recent US Postal Service stamps commemorating several passenger riverboats.

From your Technical Library

Pre-move inventory

The Tech Library is required by regulations to periodically inventory its collection both on and off-site. So it is beginning the process of visiting every District office to verify that the holdings list is accurate. Offices will be advised in advance of the visit and be given printouts from the computer system to check against their shelves.

Everyone is encouraged to return book stock that is not in use. Anyone having books that are considered obsolete should be so identified so that those titles can be archived or properly disposed of.

District fields running teams

On Saturday, 28 October, the St. Louis District Running Club won two trophies at the annual Corporate Challenge Run. The race, a four-mile course, was sponsored by the McDonald Douglas Running Club and was held at Queeny Park in west county. Two teams from the Corps entered the race and each won trophies in their respective categories.

Team One consisted of Maj. Brontoli (DD), Stan Zurweller (CD-CP) and Tom Ruf (ED-DA). Team One won second place in the Open Division.

Team Two consisted of John Dierker (ED-E), Mike Brazier (ED-DW) and Jerry McClintock (ED-DA) and won third place in the Master Division.

This is the second year in succession the Corps has won a trophy in this race. Congratulations to all for a memorable run.

P.S. Colonel Corbin did not run in this year's race because he was participating in some little race called the Chicago Marathon.

District runners in Alton meet

Several District people participated in the 30th Annual "Great River Road Run" at Alton, Illinois. The race is a 10 miler along the river north of Alton.

Real Estate's Bill Levins had the fastest time for the Corps. Other participants included Tom Quigley (ED-D), John Dierker (ED-E), Mike Brazier (ED-DW), Roger Hoell (ED-DA), Tom Ruf (ED-DA), and Jerry McClintock (ED-DA).

This is one of the most popular races in the Mid-West.

District Running Club recruiting

The St. Louis District Running Club is recruiting teams for the upcoming 80 mile River-to-River Relay Run. The run is April 21, and is very similar to last year's event.

The running club would like to sponsor two teams this year if the interest is there. Entry fee for the run is $15 per person. Last year's time of 10 hours and 32 minutes is our goal to beat.

Any person interested in participating should contact Jerry McClintock (ED-DA) at 5558 for more information.

Heart to heart

I just want to take a small space and say thank you to all you District personnel. Your thoughts, messages, prayers, cards and flowers are very much appreciated.

I'm feeling pretty good and the word now is medication, diet (low fat & cholesterol prudent), and exercise (20-30 minutes walking per day).

My boss says I can now be treated as EMERITUS; I wonder what that means.

Thanks again for your thoughts and prayers.

Charlie Denzel

Promotions & Incentive Awards

PROMOTIONS:

Kathleen Steinlage, PD
Robert Mesko, ED
James Lindley, OD
Eric Davis, OD
David Berti, OD
Dennis Foss, OD
Thomas Niedernhofer, ED
Gordon Holzem, OD
Jon Eckles, IM

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS:

Richard Mankus, PD
Gregory Hempen, ED
Oleva Robinson, PO
Debby Krems, CT
Donna Zoeller, ED
Linda Collins, ED
Sharlene Caulley, RE
Alton Jenkins, OD
Jerry Schaperclaus, OD
Jerone Toliver, OD
Robert Eifert, OD
Darrell LaPlante, OD
Joseph McElligott, OD
Donald Schrader, OD
David Berti, OD
Winston Campbell, OD
Michael McClendon, OD
Berry Fehl, ED
Elbert Haskett, ED
Joseph Kissane, ED
James Kuehnle, ED
Lawrence Whitt, ED

QUALITY STEP INCREASE:

Linda Collins, ED
Gary Hendrix, CD
Joseph Kissane, ED
William Brown, CD

PERFORMANCE AWARDS:

Douglas VanDorn, OD
Alton Jenkins, OD
Dorothy Zych, CD
Leonard Koopman, OD
William Wadkins, OD
James Lampe, OD
Roger Groner, OD
Joseph Lueke, OD

SPECIAL ACT/SERVICE AWARDS:

Everett Pate, ED
Kathie Shelton, PO
Warren Jones, IM
Carl Okenfuss, ED
Roger Hayes, OD
Carol Hilderbrand, ED
Joan Stemler, ED
William Meldrum, ED
Phyllis Reese, PD
David Busse, ED
Darold Woodcock, PO

24 hour job info system

The Chicago and St. Louis Area Offices of Personnel Management has installed a touch-tone job information system which provides a variety of information on Federal employment. This system is accessible from any touch-tone telephone seven days and week, 24 hours a day.

Information on jobs for which applications are being accepted, summer employment, student programs, employment of disabled persons, veterans' preference, reinstatement and transfer privileges and retirement are available.

The system also has message taking capabilities, and callers' requests are responded to by close of business the next working day. The Area Offices' touch-tone system numbers are listed below.

Chicago Area Office
(312)353-6192

St. Louis Area Office
(covers Madison and St. Clair Counties in Illinois)
(313)539-2285

NEWS BRIEFS

Congrats

Congratulations to Park Rangers Dan Camden and Timothy Bischoff at Wappapello Lake. Dan has become a GS-7 ranger in the interpretive shop and Tim a GS-5 ranger in recreation shop.

Handicapped deer hunt 1

Lake Shelbyville's first handicap deer hunt was held November 17, 18 and 19. The event, organized by Park Ranger Joe Laird, allowed five disabled hunters to participate with the help of 12 volunteers. The hunters and volunteers were housed at the Okaw Bluff Group Area.

Ranger Don Brown was the cook (food was donated by area grocery stores). Ranger James Lindley and Volunteer Mike Heischmidt also assisted.

Conference at Shelbyville

The Lower Mississippi Valley Division Natural Resource Management Conference was held at Lake Shelbyville on November 1 & 2 at the new Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek Resort. Ninety-two resource people from St. Louis and Vicksburg Districts and Division headquarters attended. The goal was an exchange of information and ideas among District and Division personnel.

First Aid Chairman

Dave Allen, Park Ranger at Lake Shelbyville, was recently named First Aid Chairman with the Shelby County Red Cross Chapter. One of Dave's duties is to recruit more instructors in the area.

Fun in the jungle

Congratulations to Carolyn Garrison, maintenance laborer at Lake Shelbyville, who survived a 24 hour Jungle Suvival course at Subic Naval Base, the Phillipines. Participants slept on the ground amidst the snakes and monkeys and ate snails and seaweed for their meals.

Crouch wins race

Congratulations to Lake Shelbyville Park Ranger Leanne Crouch who placed third overall in the female catagory, 5K race at Subic Naval Base, the Phillipines.

Handicapped deer hunt 2

The Second Annual Mark Twain Lake Handicap Deer Hunt was held November 18 & 19. Volunteers from the Monroe City and Paris Lions Clubs and Monroe City Boy Scout Troop #132 assisted Park Rangers Wayne Williams and Shelly Howald conduct the hunt. Of the six hunters who participated only one harvested a deer, a button buck.

Tourism award

The Rend Lake Management Office was presented a plaque by the President's Council of the Illinois Regional Tourism Council for its efforts towards the promotion of Illinois tourism. Park Ranger Rachel Garren accepted the plaque during a banquet at the annual Fall Tourism Conference in Lisle, Illinois. Rachel serves on the Executive Board of the Southern Illinois Regional Tourism Council, which is part of the President's Council.

Handicapped deer hunt 3

The first weekend for the 10th annual Deer Hunt for the Handicapped at Rend Lake was quite a success. Fifteen deer were harvested. Blind hunter, Darrell Burtsfield, got his first deer since he was blinded in Vietnam. Another first time hunter, Larry Muzzy, bagged the largest buck. WSIL-TV covered the event

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On the Soapbox

Telling the District's story this month were:

Around the District

Claude Strauser, Chief, Hydrologic and Hydraulics Branch, Carl Okenfuss, Potamology Section and pilot of the Blankinship and Mike Navin, Geology Section, took 15 members of the Geological Society of America on a boat tour of the Mississippi River from Melvin Price Locks and Dam to the St. Louis riverfront.

Various hydrologic, geologic and cultural aspects of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and their floodplains were discussed with the earth scientists.

Claude also spoke to 70 social studies specialists at the Old Court House in Downtown St. Louis about how the history of the Mississippi River and the history of our country grew together.

Ron Dieckmann (ED-HE) presented a paper on freeboard evaluation for low levees along Coldwater Creek at the HQUSACE-sponsored hydrologic conference held at Craborchard, Tennessee. The conference addressed functional and safety aspects of Corps flood control projects.

Gary Dyhouse (ED-HE) spoke to a University of Missouri-Rolla graduate class on Hydraulic Structures about Corps' design of culverts and pumping stations.

Wappapello Lake

Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson was interviewed by Tamitha Rommel (Public Relations Rep. for Holiday Inn - Poplar Bluff, Missouri). Andrew informed Mrs. Rommel about the upcoming special events at Wappapello Lake in 1990.

Park Ranger Sue Mueller was interviewed by Jim Kime of the Wayne Banner newspaper. Sue encouraged public input on development of the historical trail (Memory Lane).

Park Rangers Andrew Jefferson and Sue Mueller met with members of the Wayne County Historical Society. They discussed ideas concerning improving and upgrading the historical trail (Memory Lane).

Lake Shelbyville

Park Rangers James Lindley and Maria Shafer, along with Illinois Department of Conservation personnel, hosted a Hunter Safety class. Thirty-five students participated in the 10 hour class.

Park Ranger Joe Laird talked about the Wildlife of Lake Shelbyville to 21 second graders at Shelbyville Main Street School.

Park Ranger Al Lookofsky presented "Recreation - Lake Shelbyville Style" to 45 members of the Shelbyville Rotary club.

Mark Twain Lake

Park Ranger Judy Smith and "Woodsy" visited over 100 students at St. John's Lutheran School. Judy talked about "Woodsy's" relatives (owls) and their natural habits.

Park Ranger Diane Hellhake visited the Palmyra Elementary School to discuss Indian life styles with more than 30 students.

Diane also greeted 25 members of the Early Bird Kiwanis Club during breakfast in Hannibal. She summarized the past recreation season and presented an exciting outlook for next year.

Rend Lake

Park volunteer (and former park aid) Gene Gulley gave a tour of the Rend Lake Visitor Center

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Christmas: Know what's important for you

It's that time of year again, folks. We're in the countdown and Christmas is coming once again.

It's a joyous time for most of us, but it's also one of the most stressful times of the year. Talk about a deadline ... December 25th doesn't wait for anyone.

"Set realistic expectations." Those are words of wisdom from the experts. There's no earlier time to set them than now. Here are a few things to consider:

* No Christmas will be like any you have experienced before. Each has its own character and its own year. Decide where you will go, or who will come to your place.

* Make a time plan that leaves space for unplanned mishaps, enough rest, and opportunities to do things you ENJOY.

* If your work or projects will keep you busy until the last minute, consider outside help for the big dinner. Many supermarkets will stuff and bake a turkey, supply ready-made trays of vegetables and plenty of other goodies.

* Let guests trim the tree. Many enjoy doing it. It gives you a common project while enjoying your visit, and it saves the time you would have to spend doing it ahead of time.

* Don't disappoint someone who's counting on a gift from you. Remember, a card sent by overnight mail, even if it only contains a $5 bill, can be important to someone who needs to know you care.

* Make a list of all those Christmas traditions from the past and decide which ones are possible and meaningful. Maybe reading the Christmas Story on Christmas Eve is a tradition, for example, and doesn't take much time. Maybe having an open house for neighbors and relatives is more than you can handle this year.

* If you really are short of time, remember there are other Christmases coming. Have dinner

Hanukkah, The Feast of Lights

Although Hanukkah is a Jewish celebration of victory in their struggle for religious freedom, its observance today crosses the boundaries of all faiths.

The primary focus of the holiday marks the rededication of the Temple that had been desecrated. To the Jews, lighting the Hanukkah lamp, or Menorah, represents the spirit of the people oppressed by the Syrian-Greek Empire in 165 B.C.

When Judah and his men were about to light the Menorah after the battle, they found a small vial of unprofaned oil that had been hidden away. The tiny vessel of oil miraculously burned for eight days until new sacred oil was obtained.

Today many Jewish families include the giving of a gift with the lighting of the Menorah. On the first night, one candle is lit. Two are lighted on the second night, three on the third, and so on until all eight shine. The candles are never blown out. They burn until they are gone.

After lighting the candles, reading the Hanukkah story, and eating a meal with special foods, many families bring out traditional games. The "driedel" and the deck of cards also date back to the Maccabean struggle. After study of the Torah was outlawed, the Maccabeas would keep a "driedel" (a four-sided top) and deck of cards on the table along with their holy books. If soldiers came, they could pretend they had gathered to gamble.

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at a restaurant and enjoy it. You'll be better off than you would be if you set yourself up for something you can't handle.

Merry Christmas to you and yours. Relax, enjoy whatever this year has in store for you and share your joy with others even if it is only by a telephone call.

Mistletoe, holly and fir

While the Christmas tree tradition extends back to the forest dwellers of Germany, use of greenery indoors can be traced to the Roman Empire and is popular in many lands.

Holly, ivy and mistletoe have been most popular, although other decorations include bay, rosemary, boxwood and laurel -- any winter green plant that renews faith in the coming again of spring.

One custom apparently English in origin is now widely popular, kissing under the mistletoe. The ancient Druids and Norsemen considered this plant to have magical qualities. They thought it could cure some diseases, promote fertility, nullify poison and avert misfortune.

NEWS BRIEFS (Continued)

and recognized Dale Miller for his efforts as hunt organizer.

Mrs. West commended

Mrs. Alice West of Benton, Illinois, received a plaque from BG Arthur E. Williams, Division Engineer, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, during a ceremony at the Rend Lake Visitor Center. Mrs. West was commended "for outstanding volunteer service, dedication, and untiring enthusiasm in promoting Rend Lake."

Mrs. West serves as Vice President of Rend Lake Promotions, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation organized by concerned citizens for the purpose of promoting the lake as a center of recreation and tourism for southern Illinois.

Hayes is back

The Carlyle Lake Management Staff would like to welcome back Park Ranger Roger Hayes who was coordinator for the floating exhibit "Harvesting the River" aboard the M/V Blankinship. Roger reports 19,696 visitors passed through the floating exhibit.

Hugo returnees

Park Ranger Steve Trebs and Maintenance Foreman Ron Harlan have returned to Carlyle Lake after working in South Carolina to help cleanup efforts after hurricane Hugo.

New Carlyle employee

Carlyle Lake Management Staff has a new member, Park Ranger Andrea Pickard. Andrea will head the Resource Management Program.

Soapbox (Continued)

to 55 nine and ten year olds from McKenley School. The students especially liked the new audio-visual slide show at the Visitor Center.

Carlyle Lake

Park Ranger Lawrence Williams has been very busy working with the St. Louis Public Schools representing the St. Louis District. He is a Career Education Pathfinder Participant and Role Model. He assists students in becoming more aware of who they are and what they want to become. He has been working with students at Vashon and Northwest High Schools.

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Accident Summary

PERSONAL INJURIES - GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NOV 89: Two

Total accidents for FY90: Two
Total accidents for FY89: Twenty-one

Employee slipped and fell on slick spot in hallway, injuring back.

Employee suffered injury to chin while doing emergency repairs to cracked section of spare miter gates.

PERSONAL INJURIES - CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES - NOV 89: None

Total accidents for FY90: None
Total accidents for FY89: Five

GOVERNMENT VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - NOV 89: None

Total vehicle accidents for FY90: None
Total vehicle accidents for FY89: Two

LAKE FATALITIES - NOV 89: None

Total Lake fatalities for FY90: None
Total Lake fatalities for FY89: Six

Mark Twain Lake - 1
Lake Shelbyville - 2
Rend Lake - 1
Wappapello Lake - 2*

* Wappapello Lake was left off the accident summary in the November issue of ESPRIT.

To your health

Guard your health in cold weather

Did you know that in cold weather, 60 percent of your body fuel is used to maintain body temperature? That means you must count on tiring more easily, and you will be more likely to suffer frostbite and hypothermia when you are active outdoors.

A windy day is even worse. At 20 degrees, for example, a 15 mph wind creates an effective temperature of -6. A 30 mph wind means -11, and a 40 mph wind dumps the effective outdoor temperature to -22.

Cold weather puts extra strain on your heart, so it's important to avoid overexertion. Shoveling snow, pushing a car, or even a fast walk can damage your body. So be sure not to do too much outside when it's very cold.

Decrease your chance of getting frostbite or hypothermia by dressing warmly for outdoor activities. Wear a coat that is tightly woven and water repellent. Wear a wool hat and protect your face. To keep very cold air out of your lungs, cover your mouth with a scarf. Wear mittens instead of gloves for warmer hands.

Stay dry. Change socks and other wet clothing to prevent loss of body heat. Wet clothes lose all insulating value and transmit heat rapidly.

Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities like fingers, toes, nose and ears. If it occurs, bring the victim inside and warm with blankets. Place the frostbitten area in warm (not hot) water, and be sure not to rub it.

Give warm, not hot, nonalcoholic drinks. After thawing, have the patient exercise the area, but the Red Cross cautions that if feet are involved, do not allow him or her to walk until receiving medical attention.

Breast conservation therapy

Breast conservation therapy -- treating cancer without sacrificing the breast -- offers a medically proven alternative to mastectomy for women who have breast cancer. With breast conservation therapy, only the cancerous lump is removed, and, depending on the surgeon's diagnosis, perhaps some of the underarm lymph nodes. The surgery is followed by a series of radiation therapy treatments.

In studies conducted by the National Cancer Institute involving women in the United States whose cancers were treated with breast conservation therapy plus radiation, the percentage of cancer recurrence in the treated breast was very low.

Not all women are candidates for breast conservation therapy. These guidelines for determining eligibility for the treatment should be discussed with your doctor:

* Tumor is small compared to size of breast.
* Cancer has not spread to skin or muscle.
* Mammogram shows a single location of the disease.
* Tumor is no larger than 1 inch or 1 1/2 inches in diameter.
* Entire tumor can be removed without deforming the breast.

Doctors are hoping that, psychologically, because the threat of losing a breast is lessened by breast conservation therapy, more women will now have regularly scheduled mammograms. Mammography is the best method of detecting breast cancer in the earliest stages, at a time when the cancer is most curable.

--information provided by Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology

Designate a driver

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week is Dec. 10-16, 1989. During the past seven years, the week has focused attention on the deaths and injuries that result from impaired driving. December was chosen because the holiday season provides more frequent occasions to drink.

This year's theme is "The designated driver, someone you can really look up to," emphasizing the importance of designating a driver who will not drink alcoholic beverages.

Jerald Anderson, executive secretary of DoD's Intoxicated Driving Prevention Task Force, said, "It's just a lot easier to designate the driver before you go to a party than to try to decide who is going to drive after everyone has had something to drink."

Anderson added, "Just because a group has designated a driver does not mean the non-drivers should get drunk. Studies show that by the third or fourth drink, euphoria sets in and people make poor judgments that could harm them even if they aren't driving."

Safety experts warn that because drinking impairs judgment, people misjudge their level of impairment and think they're in great shape when they aren't. This can happen to both the driver and the host. Hosts should insist that intoxicated guests spend the night or ride home with a sober driver. But the host may have had too many drinks -- after all, he doesn't have to drive -- and think a drunk guest is fine.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 23,300 people died on America's highways in crashes where alcohol was involved in 1988. As a spokesperson for that organization pointed out, "Drunk driving strikes with a frequency and ferocity that would be national news if its victims were reported as a total each day. Instead, the victims are listed individually in the obituary columns in cities and towns where the tragedies occur."

State, local and military police are especially vigilant during the holiday season. Even if a person doesn't have an accident, he or she could still get stopped by a police officer. The penalties for drunk driving in terms of fines, increased costs or loss of insurance, bad record and adverse impact on career are severe for civilians and even more so for military people.

Said Anderson, "It's not worth taking the chance."

Drunk driving facts

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration defines a traffic crash as being alcohol related if either the driver or non-occupant had a blood alcohol concentration of .01 percent or greater. A person with a blood alcohol content of .10 percent or greater is considered legally intoxicated.

Here are some drunk driving facts:

* Between 1982 and 1988, 166,000 people lost their lives in alcohol-related traffic crashes -- equal to one fatality every 22 minutes.

* Between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m. on weekends in some parts of the country, 10 percent of all drivers are legally drunk.

* Between midnight and 4 a.m. on any night of the week, about 80 percent of fatally injured drivers are legally drunk.

* More than 40 percent of all teenage (14-19 years old) deaths result from motor vehicle crashes; about half of these involve drinking.

*Approximately 8,000 people between 15 and 24 years old were killed and 200,000 more were injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes in 1988.

*Drivers involved in fatal crashes who had been drinking used safety belts at a substantially lower rate than sober drivers.

Holiday safety tips

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service

Decorating a Christmas tree, lighting scented holiday candles and dressing up the front door are all part of the magic of Christmas. But a little caution in decking the halls can keep friends and loved ones from tragedy.

Last year, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that more than 4,000 persons were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries related to Christmas tree lights and non-electric Christmas decorations.

Allan Zenowitz, chairman of the DoD Fire Protection Committee, stressed the importance of buying quality decorations, both for safety and lasting value. Buy light sets that have been certified safe by Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

If you are using lights purchased in a previous year, Zenowitz suggested getting them out and testing them early to make sure wires are not dried and mangled and all of the bulbs work. That way, you'll have time to replace them if necessary.

The fresher the real tree, the safer and prettier. Safety experts suggest buying the tree early and placing it in stable, water holding stand as soon as possible. Before putting the tree in water, cut about two inches off the trunk - at an angle if your stand will permit. An angle cut allows maximum water absorption.

Place the tree away from fireplaces and heat sources, and make sure it does not block the room's traffic pattern or doorway.

If you're buying an artificial tree, look for a label stating it's been tested for flammability. Read the safety instructions that come with the tree. Metallic trees bear warnings to use colored spotlights rather than string lights, for example.

Don't permit smoking near the tree or wrappings.

Supervise young children and young pets near the tree. Teach children to care for it safely.

Occupational locator

The Office of Personnel Management has furnished an Occupational Locator for federal agencies in Eastern Missouri and Madison and St. Clair Counties in Illinois. The locator identifies, by occupation (job title), those federal agencies, in the locations covered, who employ a minimum of five persons in each of the listed job categories. Employees and applicants may use this locator as reference when applying to other agencies for employment consideration.

Copies of the locator have been furnished each District Office Division/ Office Chief, each field office and the District Library. A copy of the locator is also posted in the Recruitment and Placement Branch, Room 951.

Point of contact for further information is Ruth Townley, CELMSPO-R, (314)263-5190.

Who said this?

"I'm just a plowhand from Arkansas, but I have learned how to hold a team together. How to lift some men up, how to calm down others, until finally they've got one heartbeat together, a team. There's just three things I'd ever say:

"If anything goes bad, I did it.

"If anything goes semi-good, then we did it.

"If anything goes real good, then you did it.

"That's all it takes to get people to win for you."

(Answer on page 15)

Retiree Review

The November luncheon was fairly well attended (40) and relatively peaceful (translation: Elmer was absent).

Evelyn Grote was the Emcee, under our Equality Program.

The group snapped up the remaining Old Newsboys' Day copies for a total donation of $18.

Back after a few month's absence were Jim and Celeste Baker and Sylvia Reininga.

One newbee, there for the first time, was Lou Hambuechen.

Roger Cuddeback now has a running start on his third year of unbroken attendance (26 months).

Estelle Huizenga and Ulas Wilson were both reported as recovering well from surgery. That was Elmer's excuse for not being there.

Representatives from the CAC were there to sell tickets for the District's Christmas Dinner Dance. If you don't have yours yet, call Dan Austin (263-5854) right away -- they may already be sold out by the time you read this.

REMINDER * REMINDER * REMINDER

The December Christmas Buffet, December 21, costs $9.95 plus tax. The Salad Bowl management needs a count of how many to expect, so please call 263-5662 and let us know if you are coming.

We have 20 reservations, as of press time.

Retirements...

Sheila Rodrigues, IM-SM, retired on 10 November after 7 years 9 months of federal service. Seven years were with the St. Louis District.

Clyde Wilkes, Chief Public Affairs, is retiring 30 December after not quite 31 and a half years of federal service. Clyde served as Public Affairs Officer for the St. Louis District for nine years.

John Clark, ED-C, is retiring on 30 December after 32 years of federal service. John was with the St. Louis District for 28 years.

James Bonds, RU-L, is retiring on 30 December with 31 years of federal service. Jim had 23 and a half years with the St. Louis District.

Eugene Struttman, OD-NL (L&D 24), is retiring on 30 December with 33 years of federal service. Eugene was with the St. Louis District almost 20 and a half years.

Everett Pate, ED-GG, is retiring on 30 December after 34 years of federal service, 27 years of which were with the St. Louis District.

Joseph Moonier, OD-NL (Locks 27), is also retiring on 30 December after almost 26 years of federal service. Joe spent almost 24 years with the Corps of Engineers.

Retirees going in record numbers

The final total of District personnel retiring this month will not be known for certain until early January. But the word available at press time indicates it will be a record of sorts.

As of November 28, there were 15 definites, two or three probables and two others expressing interest.

No one in the Personnel Office could recall such a high number at any one time. Last December brought five retirements and December '87 saw six.

Since "changes of heart" are always possible, we will wait until next issue to list the names.

Corbin's Comments (Cont.)

names when you should.

EMP is alive and well, thanks to Ben Haw-- (how do you spell his name?) and his team from PD, ED and everywhere else. Oh well, you all know who I mean -- the guy who can't grow hair on his head so he is trying to grow it on his face.

The lakes have had a fabulous year servicing millions of visitors, while wisely managing our scarce natural resources.

Pat McGinnis has done a good job establishing the Riverlands Management Office and moving out with initiatives.

The Mel Price Project is proceeding famously. First lock is in operation. We'll raise pool by mid-December '89 and we'll start true locking efforts then to get rid of our 100+ tow backlog at L&D 26. Contracts have been awarded on the demolition and removal of the railroad bridge and L&D 26, and construction of the spur dike. The Environmental Demo area is coming along well, and plans for a "world class" one-of-a-kind visitor facility are proceeding in superb fashion.

I could go on for another 15 or 20 pages about all of you, but Kenny is glaring at me, so I'll cut this off now. Bottom line -- all of you, whether you're technical or support, are special people who are doing a superb job. Sometimes I'm afraid that in the press of day-to-day crisis and challenges we lose sight of that fact. I just want to assure you that I don't and you shouldn't.

Many years ago, as a teenager riding "line" for the 2X Cattle Company in Eastern Oregon and Northern Nevada, I had an old Cheyenne Indian for a boss who got very exasperated with me. He had me stick my hand in a bucket of water and then take it out. Then he said, "Kid, if your hand left an impression in that water, you ought to think twice about things." Actual dialogue was a little more X-rated, but he was right then. But you know something, you folks have collectively stuck your hand in that bucket of water and left an impression. And you should never forget that. You have, and you continue to as a team, make this world a better place for all. Thank you!

Have a safe, happy, prosperous holidays. Meet you back at the District the first week in January to "get it on."

Remember, as a team, where the sum of the parts are greater than the individual parts, we can do anything. We can even move "rivers."

See you next year!

Soapbox (Continued)

Lawrence Williams and Woodsy Owl (Donna Henrichs) talked to 40 preschoolers at Breese, Illinois, pre-school about Joining the Woodsy Anti-Pollution Team.

Answer to 'Who said this?'

Alabama football coach Bear Bryant

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We wish you a
Merry
Christmas
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