

ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

ESPRIT

VOL. 26 NO. 2

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TAXES

See pages 7 - 10
for some helpful tips.



Corbin's Comments by Col. James E. Corbin



Ken tells me I'm holding up the presses again. Somehow we need to put a couple more hours in the day or days in the week. I just finished the one for last month, or so I thought. Well, time passes fast when you're having fun, doesn't it!? Now, if I can just convince Joan Schick that she and her gang are really having fun we'll have it made. Hang in there Joan and crew - you're doing a great job and its appreciated!!

Believe I promised to discuss the future of the District with you, so here goes! This is the first of a many part installment of Corbin's crystal ball in

specifically LTG Hatch, are working on vigorously. The Corps, specifically LTG Hatch, is attempting to develop an infrastructure mission for the Corps. The workload, the national need is there, and there really isn't anyone else that matches the Corps' professional capabilities; so, in a time of belt tightening, I believe LTG Hatch has a good chance of being successful. If he is, then I believe, given the development in the Greater St. Louis Area and in Illinois and a few locations in Missouri that we will fare well.

Further, the Corps is continuing to work the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), work for EPA (such as our efforts at Times Beach) and FAA work. In all cases, we are at the forefront of these efforts. Additionally, there is significant expansion available in environmentally-oriented construction efforts associated with our Environmental Management Program. Further, there is considerable levee work to be accomplished (actually reworked), and navigation-oriented effort particularly on the Mississippi River between St. Louis and Cairo, the real Achilles Heel of Navigation on the Mississippi River. And finally, I believe we have a real chance to get a military construction mission at some point in time during my stay here, or shortly after I leave.

action!

The District currently has about a \$140 million to \$200 million annual workload through the early 1990s. As we get into the mid-1990s, that workload drops into the \$60 million to \$80 million per year range. That drop is not as traumatic as it appears since about half of the current annual workload goes to Mel Price Lock and Dam. Much of the District is already relatively close to that level right now in terms of staffing. Don't misread me! We aren't so close that we could avoid some Reduction-In-Force (RIF)). Ouch!! I'm sure, given the history of this District, all of you know how badly I wanted to pick up my pen as I was writing that sentence. But, I'm basically an honest guy and I promised to be honest with you. So, in the mid-1990s, we are faced with the potential of a RIF, in some areas, if our workload picture doesn't improve. What are we going to do about it?

While all the above are possible, they won't happen without hard work, understanding and patience. We are going to be operating in a period of fiscal constraint in the foreseeable future. Thus, even an expanding workload does not, in my opinion, mean more personnel, rather it means more efficient utilization of what we already have. It means no slipping of programs, a favorite tactic of ours and the Corps'. It means good effective management that produces a useful product, on time (the original schedule, not change 53), within cost (the original cost), that has the customer playing a meaningful role as we go along rather than receiving a final product that they played no part in developing.

Next month, I'll begin to lay out for you, specifically, how we are going after the above missions, discuss how we are going to begin realigning ourselves internally to produce what's needed, introduce you to my new Deputy for Project Management, a fellow named Jack Niemi and talk about "Work for Others"! See you then!

Good question! One that we in the District and the Corps,



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

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The Kings are still here



Corps Kings 1969. Left to right - Back row: Mike Cullen, Ted Postol, Walley Feld, Larry White and Bill Sutton. Front row: Ron Messerli, Bill Stroud, Rich Mills and Larry Strunk.

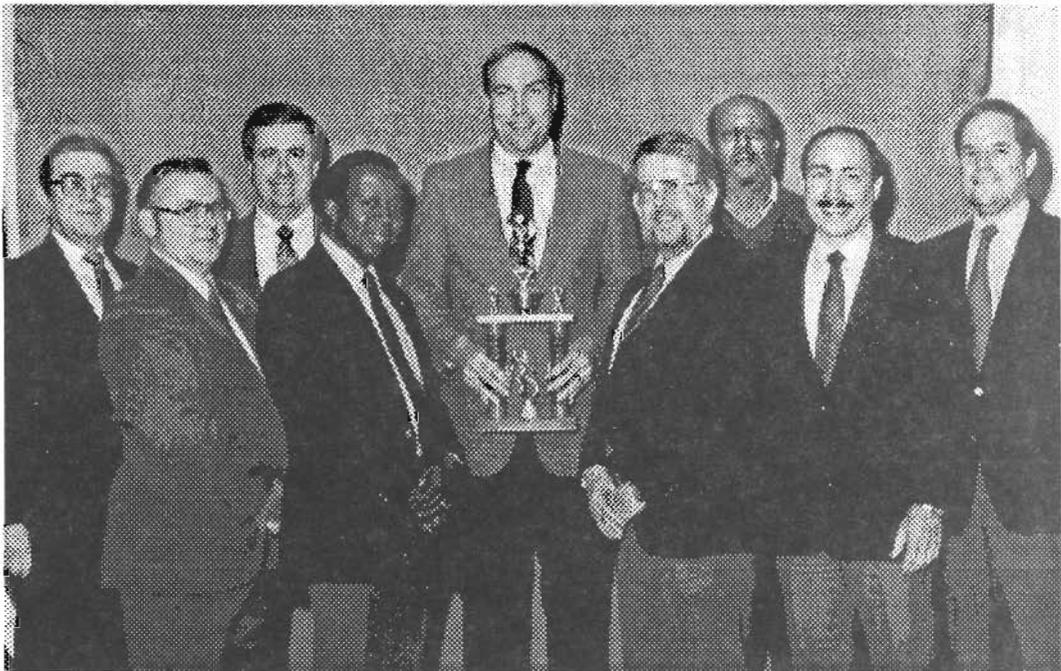
and 20 years later...

The Corps Kings have always managed to play good softball. They were the Federal Softball League Second Division champs in 1969. They've won many championships since.

Would you believe all the guys on the 1969 championship photo are still with the District? Of course their faces aren't quite as pretty anymore. And

one of them, the tall ugly one in the center of the photo, is still an active member of the team.

They may be a little bigger around the



middle, but they all say they can still play the game. Play or not, they're still the champs.



Your new Civilian Activities Council

The District has a new Civilian Activities Council. The new Council met for the first time on 24 January to take over from the past Council whose last official function was the Christmas Dinner Dance.

The past Council has exemplified the hard work and esprit-de-corps values of the St. Louis District. They were a group of people from all areas of the District, thrown together on short notice, without prior experience. What they accomplished in their two years was exceptional. The District was certainly better for it.

Under the caring leadership of Chairperson Ron Jones, who spent many hours of his own time, and the financial custodianship of Jackie Jones, the past Council hosted 38 activities, including two picnics and two Christmas Dinner Dances.

The new Council is listed below. We wish them all the best. We know they'll ably serve the people of the St. Louis District.

YOUR NEW CIVILIAN ACTIVITIES COUNCIL

NAME	OFFICE	PHONE
Mary Ann Dostal, Chairperson	OD-E	5705
Don Fendler, Vice-Chair.	CD-CC	5046
Robert Frederick, Custodian	DC-M	5541
Linda Moore, Secretary	IM-I	5880
Norma Hall	EE	5614
Andrea Pickard	OD-R	5533
Bill Stroud	ED-HP	5852
Carol Hilderbrand	ED-G	5664
Pat Hosford	CD-Q	5836
Diadra Henley	PO-P	5856
Riley Pope	PD-F	5015
Danny Austin	CT-C	5845
Woodrow Sandlin	RE	5070
Jim Gerth	LM-T	5992
Evelyn Grote		Retired employee

A salute to Black History from the Black Employment Program Committee

The Black Employment Program wishes to thank all the District employees for helping us celebrate February 1-31, 1989. For nine years, the program was sponsored by a committee chosen by the District Commander; for two years, the program was established under a charter of the St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers. Today, the program, as of August 1988, is established by Regulation No. 690-1-969.

The purpose of this regulation is to provide command guidance for uniform framework by which managers and supervisors can develop and implement employment of individuals.

As you know, effective employment opportunity program performance cannot be achieved by accident or what might be described as the "hit & miss" efforts common in many public and private agencies and institutes. Essential to a viable program is not only knowledge of equal employment opportunity policies and procedures, but also understanding and use of sound communication techniques. Poor communication can result in failure of even the most advanced equal employment opportunity policies and procedures and that failure can stifle employees' morale and performance and result in a costly and time-consuming complaint process.

It is hoped that this District will continue to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment. The Black Employment Program (BEPM) plans to continue to be a part of this communication process.

W.J. Stroud



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

TECHNICAL LIBRARY

An earthquake here?

Greg Hempen of the Geology Section will graphically illustrate the potential of an earthquake and its possible effects to the St. Louis area at the Library Lectures Series, February 22, in the Tech Library, Room 926 at 1130 hours. All are invited to bring their own

brown bag lunch to hear answers about what one can expect -- would it be with the same results as in Armenia? San Francisco? Mexico?

Planning college classes made easier

Every available current college catalog for the States of Missouri and Illinois is available for your use in the Tech Library, Room 926. The collection includes every reporting undergraduate, graduate, and professional school from both states' colleges, universities, junior, technical and community colleges. The library is able to store all these for your ready access in the "Micrologue". The catalogs have been reduced to microfiche. The system is so easy to use that usually

a librarian does not need to spend any time explaining it to a first-time user. A paper printout of the pages you want is available for the asking. Drop by during your lunch hour and see what your neighborhood schools have to offer you!

New regional phone books on tap

For the first time since the breakup of the AT&T network, the library has received new Missouri and Illinois phone books for our reference shelf. These single copies are available for reference use by all Corps staff for same day use and return. The cities are cross-indexed locally so you can easily find smaller towns in the larger phone books. Please assist us to keep the current directories available for as many as possible by signing out and returning them pronto!

Familiar faces/voices leave the river

January saw the departure of four long-time helpers of the navigation industry from the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Altogether, the District lost more than 150 years of working experience in this quartet.

George Clapp served in St. Louis District for 50 years. There have been Corps employees with longer service, but no others are known to have spent an entire 50-year career in St. Louis District.

George began his Corps career, working on the levees, in 1938. In subsequent years, he worked in Hydraulics

Branch and Planning Branch of the Engineering Division. His final years were in Operations Division, Navigation Branch.

Last year, George was honored with a "Resolution in Recognition" by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association for his many important contributions to navigation planning and operations.

Carol E. Sherril retired with 41-plus years of service. For the past 12 years, Carol was with the Channel Maintenance Section of Navigation Branch. He played a key role in dredging operations, emergency operations

(flood fighting) and managing the resources of the Channel Maintenance Section.

Henrietta Creel, for the past 33 years, was the "Voice of St. Louis District", operating the W-U-G-Five base station. It was Henrietta who passed along stage and other river information, and established the radio-telephone linkages that so often carried crucial communications in emergency situations.

Jacob D. "Dan" Buckley retired from the Lock and Dam Section with 31 years of service. For the past 21 years, Dan was the Lockmas-

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from page 5)

ter at Lock and Dam 24, Clarksville, Missouri. His operational management skills and cool handling of emergency situations were respected throughout the Upper Mississippi.

They will all be missed!

Running



NEWS

The local YMCA chapter has posted the year-end mileage results, showing that six District employees have run a cumulative distance of 6,281 miles for the year 1988. They are LTC Brown (DD) - 1,115; Mike Brazier (ED-DW) - 1,130; John Dierker (ED-DC) - 1,015; Earl Ehlers (ED-DS) - 658; Rich Mills (ED-HE) - 503; and Jerry McClintock (ED-DW) - 1,860 miles.

\$
Promotions and Incentive Awards
\$

<p>PROMOTIONS:</p> <p>Terry Dye, OD Elaine Sombright, DC Linda Wichlan, ED Linda Moore, IM Bradley Stamp, OD Cynthia Gan, RE Suzanne Mueller, OD</p> <p>QUALITY STEP INCREASE:</p> <p>Charles Brooks, IM Hazel Schnatzmeyer, IM</p> <p>SPECIAL ACT/SERVICE AWARDS:</p> <p>Vanester Duff, ED Henrietta Creel, IM Carol Hilderbrand, ED Ronald Jones, IM Jackie Jones, DC Lawrence Kennedy, OD Ida Morris, PD Kenneth Kruchowski, PA Terri Nicholson, PO Sharon Leeker, IM Donald Fogel, OD Craig Donis, RE Richard Reiter, CD Martha Vieira, OD Michael Klosterman, ED Gregory Hempten, ED</p>	<p>Henrietta Creel, IM Charlotte Heeb, ED Robert Rapp, ED Charles Turlin, ED Paul Olson, ED Phillip Eydmann, ED Ernest Graf, ED William Meldrum, ED James Reed, ED Bradford Strauser, ED Kenneth Christmas, CD Pam Reed, CD Gregory Bertoglio, ED Barbara Collier, IM Benedict Venturella, OD</p> <p>PERFORMANCE AWARDS:</p> <p>James Kuehnle, ED Ronald Dieckmann, ED Dale Russell, OD William Meldrum, ED Maggie Patterson, EEO Eugene Degenhardt, VE Harold Schweiger, CD William Kirk, DP Fred McLard, ED Antoinette Mueller, ED Era Greer, OD Joan Brickey, CT Judith Griffith, IM Robert Doza, OD</p>
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Dirt cake, by Marge Robbins

Since Marge Robbins can't remember who all the people are who asked her for her recipe for dirt cake, ESPRIT, as a public service, is printing it here. If you're more than five pounds over weight, disregard.

DIRT CAKE: Crush 20-oz. pkg. OREO cookies (with icing). A food processor works very well. Set aside.

First Mix: 1/2 stick margarine, 8 oz.

cream cheese, 1/2 cup powdered sugar. Set aside.

Next Mix: 3 1/2 cups milk, 2 small pkgs. instant vanilla pudding.

Then Add: 12 oz. Cool Whip.

Combine 2nd mixture with 1st mixture.

Beginning and ending with cookies, alternate 1/2" thick layers in a 8-inch flower pot. Decorate with artificial flowers and serve with a garden too.

Enjoy!

Marge Robbins



Taxes

IRA deductions

To claim an IRA as a tax deduction, taxpayers must meet eligibility requirements, which are based on the size of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income and whether the taxpayer is an active participant in any type of employer-maintained retirement plan.

Taxpayers can claim the maximum deduction for IRA contributions (\$2,000 or 100 percent of compensation, whichever is less) only if they meet one of the following criteria:

the individual is not an active participant (or in the case of a married couple, neither spouse is an active participant) in an employer-maintained retirement plan during the year, regardless of the amount of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income, or

the individual (or in the case of a married couple, either spouse) is an active participant in an employer-maintained retirement plan and the taxpayer's adjusted gross income is less the \$40,000 for a married couple or \$25,000 for a single individual.

If an individual (or in

the case of a married couple, either spouse) is an active participant in an employer-maintained retirement plan, the maximum allowable deduc-

tion for contributions to an IRA will begin to "phase out" when adjusted gross income reaches \$25,000 (\$40,000 for a married couple). When adjusted gross income reaches \$35,000 (\$50,000) for a married couple, no deductions are allowed for IRA contribu-

tions. While many taxpayers may have their deductible IRA contributions reduced or eliminated due to the eligibility requirements, they will be able to continue making non-deductible contributions to a new or an existing IRA. As with the earnings on deductible IRA contributions, any earnings realized on non-deductible IRA contributions are not taxed until distributed to the taxpayer, generally at retirement when the individual may have a lower taxable income.

Tax law changes on IRAs, through the Tax Reform Act of 1986, include changes in the rules concerning spousal IRA deductions, qualified voluntary employee contributions and the purchase of gold and silver coins for an IRA.

The spousal IRA provisions have been changed to eliminate the requirement that the spouse have no compensation in the year in order to be eligible for the spousal IRA contribution.

The law repealed the IRA deduction previously allowed

for voluntary employee deductible contributions to a qualified plan. Also, beginning in 1987, taxpayers are allowed to establish an IRA by investing in certain gold and silver coins issued by the United States.

Other basic tax rules concerning IRAs were not affected by the law. Taxpayers may continue to establish or contribute funds to an IRA at any time during the tax year and the following year, up to the due date for filing their tax returns, without extensions, prior to the year they reach age 70 1/2.

Taxpayers who withdraw funds from an IRA before age 59 1/2 are required to pay an additional 10 percent tax unless the withdrawal was due to the death or permanent disability of the taxpayer or was due to a return of non-deductible contributions. Taxpayers may also continue to make tax-free rollovers, either from one IRA to another or from an employer-maintained retirement plan to an IRA.

Personal interest

The deduction for personal interest is being phased out. This deduction is limited to 40 percent in 1988, 20 percent in 1989 and 10 percent in 1990. No deduction will be allowed thereafter. Personal interest generally includes interest on car loans, credit cards, personal loans and most tax deficiencies of individual taxpayers.



Special rules for child exemption

Divorced or separated parents must use special rules to decide whether they or their former spouses can claim the exemption for their child when they file their tax returns. The special rules for divorced or separated parents apply only if:

1. The parents are divorced or legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance, are separated under a written separation agreement or lived apart at all times during the last six months of the year; and
2. One or both parents provide more than half the child's total support for the calendar year; and
3. One or both parents have custody of the child for more than half the calendar year.

Although there are some exceptions, the parent who has custody of the child for most of the year is usually treated as the parent who provides more than half the child's support. It does not matter whether the parent with custody has been actually providing more than half of the child's support.

A non-custodial parent may claim the exemption for the child if either (1) the custodial parent signs a written declaration that he or she will not claim the exemption for the child and the non-custodial parent attaches this written declaration to his or her return, or (2) a decree or agreement executed before 1985 provides that the non-custodial parent is entitled to the

exemption and he or she provides at least \$600 for the child's support during the year, unless the pre-1985 decree or agreement is modified after 1984 to specify that this provision will not apply.

Head of household to list children

Many taxpayers filing as head of household have been needlessly delaying their tax refunds by forgetting to list the names of qualifying dependents or children.

To file as a head of household, a taxpayer must be unmarried or qualify to file as unmarried, and provide more than half the cost of keeping up a home that is the principal home of the taxpayer and the taxpayer's unmarried child (who may be either a dependent or not) or a married child who must be the taxpayer's dependent.

Other qualifying relatives, such as an uncle, sister, niece or son-in-law, must be the taxpayer's dependents and actually live with the taxpayer the entire year. The taxpayer's dependent parents, however, may qualify even though they do not live with the taxpayer. The taxpayer must have paid more than half the cost of keeping up their home to qualify for head-of-household filing status.

To be considered unmarried, the IRS says, one must be single, legally separated, divorced, married but living apart for at least the last six months of the tax year or widowed. Without a child or qualifying depend-

ent, unmarried taxpayers are not eligible to file as head of household, and if they do not qualify as a surviving widow or widower with a dependent child, they must file under the single status.

Use Form 1040X to correct errors

Conversations this time of year often focus on income tax. Quite often these conversations lead to the realization of error made on tax returns -- forgotten income not reported, allowable credits or deductions not taken or credits and deductions taken in error.

Don't panic. These errors on returns already filed can be corrected by filing an amended return on Form 1040X, "Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return."

Form 1040X can be used to correct any previously filed Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ. Generally, Form 1040X must be filed within three years from the date the original return was filed or within two years from the date the tax was paid, whichever is later, according to the IRS.

It is not necessary to file an amended return to correct arithmetic errors. These are automatically corrected by computers at IRS service centers when the returns are processed. It is also not necessary to file an amended return if a required schedule was not submitted. If this is the case, IRS will write the taxpayer to request the schedule or attachment.



Extension of time to file available

Taxpayers who file Form 1040 or Form 1040A can request an automatic four-month extension of time to file their federal income tax returns.

To obtain the four-month extension beyond April 17, 1989 (this year, taxpayers get a two-day break because April 15 falls on a Saturday), taxpayers must complete Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return," and forward it by April 17, 1989, to the Internal Revenue Service center processing returns for their area. Service center addresses are listed in the instructions to Form 1040 and Form 1040A.

The IRS stresses, however, that the Form 4868 does not extend the time to pay the income tax.

On Form 4868, taxpayers should make an estimate of the year's taxes and submit any balance due with the form. If the unpaid tax is more than 10 percent of the total tax due, a penalty will be assessed for the underpayment unless the taxpayer can show reasonable cause for not paying the tax when due. Interest is also assessed on any unpaid balance.

Taxpayers filing Form 1040EZ and those requesting the IRS to compute their tax are not eligible for automatic extensions. Also, taxpayers under a court order to file tax returns by the regular due date are not eligible for extensions.

Rounding off may limit mistakes

You may reduce the chance of making arithmetic errors on your tax return by rounding off amounts to the nearest dollar.

When you round off one dollar item, however, you must consistently round off all amounts. Amounts under 50 cents should be dropped. For example, \$19.21 becomes \$19. Amounts from 50 cents to 99 cents should be increased to the next higher dollar, so \$19.50 becomes \$20. If you do round off, do so for all amounts. However, if you have to add two or more amounts together to figure the total to enter on a line, include cents when adding the amounts and round off only the total.

By not having to work with decimal points, you may find you make fewer math errors that could delay your refund.

Labels, envelopes speed refunds

Many delays in the processing of federal income tax returns could be avoided if taxpayers used the labels and envelopes that accompany their tax packages.

The peel-off label, which contains the taxpayer's name, address and Social Security number, is designed to expedite accurate processing at IRS service centers and thus avoid delay in the issuance of a refund check.

The IRS advises taxpayers to use the label, even if

corrections are necessary. For example, in the case of a change of address, the correction should be made directly on the label. Persons who use tax preparers need to furnish them with the peel-off label for use on their return.

One of the most common troublesome errors that using the label can avert is listing an incorrect or illegible Social Security number. This is a major cause of delayed refund checks.

The coded, pre-addressed envelope ensures that the return is sent to the proper IRS service center. Once the envelope reaches there, the coding ensures speedy entry into the processing system.

Taxpayers should make sure that they use the proper postage when mailing their returns. Most returns require one first-class stamp; however, thicker returns, usually containing more than four items (that is, Form 1040 and three attachments) require additional postage. Returns to taxpayers for more postage will not be considered timely filed even if they are originally mailed by April 17.

Here's a tip . . . a tax tip.

Be careful when selecting a tax preparer.

- stay away from someone who claims to have an "in" with the IRS,
- don't accept promises of a refund
- Get the preparer to sign the return,
- **NEVER** agree to sign a blank return.

TAX TIP

A Public Service of the IRS



Correct W-4 makes difference

Will you be up-to-date on your federal withholding allowances for 1989?

Every payday your employer uses the information and the number of withholding allowances from your Form W-4, "Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate," to determine how much federal income tax to withhold from your pay. So, it is important to keep your Form W-4 up to date to reflect any changes in withholding allowances.

The instructions and worksheets on the 1989 Form W-4 help you figure the number of withholding allowances you are entitled to claim. File a new Form W-4 with your employer if necessary.

You should check the number of allowances if:

- * Your marital status changes.
- * Your dependent is born or dies.
- * You begin or stop supporting a dependent.
- * Your eligibility for the "special withholding allowance" changes.
- * Your eligibility for additional withholding allowances for credits or deductions changes.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 changed many parts of the law that affect withholding, including some changes that take effect in 1989. If you are in any of the following groups, review your withholding early in

the year to see if you should file a 1989 Form W-4:

* You can claim head-of-household filing status on your 1989 tax return. A recent provision allows you to claim one additional withholding allowance on the Personal Allowances Worksheet on the W-4.

* You are married and your spouse works, or you have two or more jobs at the same time. You should complete the "Two-Earner/Two Jobs Worksheet" on the W-4.

* You itemize deductions or have non-wage income. You should complete the "Deductions and Adjustments Worksheet" on the W-4. For 1989, the standard deduction is \$5,000 for married filing joint return or qualifying widow(er) with dependent child; \$4,400 for head of household; \$3,000 for single; and \$2,500 for married filing separate return filing status. As a result, some employees may no longer have itemized deductions in excess of the standard deduction.

If the number of allowances you are entitled to claim increases, you may file a new Form W-4 at any time.

If the number of allowances you are entitled to claim decreases to less than the number you are now claiming, you must file a new Form W-4 within 10 days of the change.

If you want more tax withheld, you can claim fewer allowances than you are entitled to or ask your employer to withhold more tax or both. If you are

married, you may also check the box "Married, but withhold at higher single rate" on Form W-4.

If you want less tax withheld, you should claim all the allowances you are entitled to. However, if you work for more than one employer, you may not claim the same allowances more than once. If both you and your spouse are employed, you can divide the allowances between you, but both cannot claim the same allowances.

You can estimate your taxes for the year by using the worksheet in Publication 919, "Is My Withholding Correct for 1989?" Then you can decide whether to change the number of withholding allowances you are claiming by filing a new Form W-4 so you can have less tax or more withheld.

Tax preparation fee deductible

For those who itemize deductions, tax preparation fees paid to have tax returns prepared may be claimed as miscellaneous deductions for the year in which they were paid. However, miscellaneous deductions are deductible only to the extent the total exceeds 2 percent of adjusted gross income.

Sales taxes

State and local income taxes, real estate taxes and personal property taxes remain fully deductible. Taxpayers may not deduct state and local sales taxes.



On the Soapbox

Telling the District's story last month were:

Around the District

Rob Davinroy, ED-HP, gave a lecture on River Engineering to the Rivers and Harbors Class, University of Missouri, Rolla.

Gene Degenhardt recently published a paper in Value World entitled "Concept Speculation and FACT - New Tools for the VE Job Plan". This innovative paper proposes another way to perform function analysis for Value Engineering/Value Management studies.

Melvin Price L&D

Sig Groetsch conducted a tour of the project to interested members of the Ocean Divers of Key Largo, Florida.

Ed Berghoff gave a slide presentation

on the construction of the project to a group from the St. Anthony's Adult Day Care in Alton.

Wappapello Lake

Park Ranger Dan Camden was interviewed by radio stations KJEZ and KWOC of Poplar Bluff, and KBOA of Kennett, Missouri. Dan promoted the collection of Christmas trees and volunteer recruitment to place trees in Wappapello Lake for fish shelters.

Assistant Park Manager Gary Stilts was interviewed by radio station KJEZ of Poplar Bluff, Missouri. He spoke about current events and the fish shelter program.

Park Ranger Sue Mueller was interviewed by the Puxico Press in regard to the outcome of the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Park Rangers Devin Amelunke and Dan Camden spoke with the Daily Standard about the usefulness of fish shelters and recruitment of volunteers to place shelters in the lake. Hooked on Fishing

Magazine contacted Park Ranger Sue Mueller for an update on special events for March and April 1989.

Park Ranger Dan Camden spoke with the Williamsville Lions Club to promote their understanding of and interest in the fish shelter program. The club hauled trees from the Williamsville collection point to Wappapello Lake.

Park Ranger Sue Mueller spoke about endangered species and conservation techniques with the Fisk Cub Scouts.

Carlyle Lake

Park Ranger Roger Hayes presented a program to the Kaskaskia Audobon Society of Salem, Illinois, entitled "Winter Irruptives" (Wondering Winter Birds). Roger Hayes was also a guest speaker on the Rance Ryan's Talk Show (WCEE-TV 13, Carter, Illinois). His topics were summer jobs, upcoming special events at Carlyle Lake, and the different species of birds at Carlyle Lake.

Dutt dilemma solved

The response to our question about Owen Dutt's beard has been a resounding WITH. The question has been answered.

Bicentennial dates

FEBRUARY 4, 1789:

Presidential electors choose George Washington as the first President and John Adams as Vice-President.

How much one cent doubled every day for 30 days would amount to?
\$5,368,709.12



So you want news coverage?

The Public Affairs Office frequently receives requests to have an item published in one or more newspapers.

That is fine, in theory. Unfortunately, the vast majority of the requests reach PA long after the event. For example, on January 11, we received an item about an event on December 21.

You must understand that the news media are primarily interested in current news. Except in human interest stories, not related to any particular date, any item more than a day or two old is history to a journalist.

The second most common snag is that the items are generally accompanied by a color photograph. This means the newspaper must convert it to black and white for their use. Like most of us, newspaper people are not looking for extra work. If they can comfortably fill their pages with submissions that are already black and white, why should they go to the trouble and expense of converting your color photo?

The final problem area is lack of complete information. If an item is reasonably timely, but PA has to go back to the originator (who is on leave, or in the field, or doesn't have the data at hand), the time loss destroys the timeliness.

So, if you want news coverage:

-- Get the story immediately. If at all possible,

do advance work on it. Get everything possible done (information gathering) before the event.

-- Get the photos in black and white, glossy finish, in 5x7 or 8x10 format. And try for something a little more appealing than some grinning people, staring at the camera.

-- Get the story, and the photo (if any), to PA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Beyond a day or two, the odds on getting the story printed go down about five percent per day; beyond a week, about ten percent per day. At 10 days, there is perhaps, one chance in three; far less than that if the newspaper is a daily. It quickly becomes an exercise in futility.

Some other hints:

-- A personnel story (promotion, performance, award, etc.) for a local paper has a better chance with a portrait shot than it does with an award scene.

-- A story of accomplishment has a better chance with a photo of the activity accomplished, i.e. a work-site action shot.

-- A good photo, with caption, has a better chance for use in most papers than does a written out story.

-- Magazines are not easily categorized, particularly trade publications. Their desires range from features (text and photos) to very short, concise items of information. There is no general rule. If you have a particular magazine in mind,

look at past issues to see what they use and tailor your submission to that style.

Final note: The best chance of getting published is with a really striking or unusual photograph. However, for better or for worse, photography is an art, not a science, and PA cannot tell you how to do it.

Navy vets sought for reunion

Survivors of Boot Camp at Farragut, Idaho (c. 1942-44) are gathering at Bevier, Missouri, June 9-11, 1989.

This first Missouri-wide reunion for Farragut veterans is open to all who trained there for World War II service.

A national-level effort to gather Farragut alumni began two years ago and attracted 800 to its second reunion, last year.

The Missouri state-level event is scheduled at the September R-V and Campground, between Bevier and Macon on US 36, west of its intersection with US 63 in Macon. Bevier, five miles west of Macon, is an entry point to Long Branch Lake and State Park.

Anyone interested in this event, should contact Bill Remmert at 263-5505, for more information.



Retiree Review

The January luncheon attendance was a bit disappointing -- only 33. The number is usually down, during the winter, but the amazingly mild weather this year was expected to bring out more people.

Elmer H. made it, despite his promise to be gone.

There were no new faces to be seen, but a number of old friends we hadn't seen for awhile were back: Ollie Hessler, Cliff Forderhase, Robert Hook and Don Wampler.

Alice Rinkel was reported to have undergone cataract surgery just the day before, so the Rinkels were absent.

Howard Beinke was, as usual, the Senior Retiree present.

Several moments were spent in remembrance of Bill Shanks and remarks about how much he will be missed.

Odd Anecdote:

Do you believe in fate?

Estelle Huizenga recently left her chair, in the living room, to answer the hall telephone. As she spoke on the phone, the living room ceiling collapsed, dropping heavy chunks of plaster in the chair she had just vacated! A couple of thousand dollars in damage, but no injury. Estelle's Guardian Angel was on the job.

Now for the bad news:

Our genial (venial?) host sprang a New Year's surprise on us. Meal prices for January were raised 50 cents, with an additional 50 cent raise to be effective in February! He also demanded a long-term agreement to the new prices, with an implied threat to cancel our standing reservation. He gave a definite impression that he would just as soon see us move.

Although many folks are very reluctant to leave our traditional meeting site, a committee was formed to check out alterna-

tives and report back next month (February). The "volunteers" are: Evelyn Grote, Virginia Herald, Howard Beinke and Roger Cuddeback. No wonder there were no jokes told at this luncheon.

So, come on in to help decide this issue (again) but be prepared to pay \$6.25/6.50, a dollar more than last fall.

If that isn't enough attraction, Col. Corbin has promised to be with us and give a status report on the District, as well as answer whatever questions you might have.

And the clincher! Elmer solemnly promised not to be there.

See you Thursday, February 16, around 11:30, at Peitro's (maybe the last time), 3801 Watson Road!

Retirements...

Dale Beard retired at the end of January after 32 1/2 years of federal service. Dale worked in the Greater St. Louis Resident Office.

Donald Rench also retired at the end of January after 28 years of federal service. Don worked for the Repair Unit - Land.

Condolences

Theodore Curtiss, who retired from the District in December 1966, passed away on 10 January. Ted worked in the old Specification Section of the Design Branch.

Bernard Cottingham, the carpenter at the Service Base passed away unexpectedly on 22 January. Bernie was the only carpenter at the Service Base. He began work there in October 1977. Bernie is survived by his wife Margaret, two daughters, a son and two step daughters. He was 61.



To Your Health

Honey, the unexpected healer

Dabbing honey on an injury might be sticky business, but its healing and antibiotic effects are well documented. Honey speeds the healing of open wounds because its acidic nature makes it a natural bacteria killer.

Used on abdominal surgery patients at the University of South Florida in Tampa, it proved more effective than expensive topical antibiotics and promoted rapid growth of health scar tissue.

Dr. Avashalom Mizrahi, Ph.D., professor of microbiology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem reports that honey is also good for treating burns - and ulcers. Medical literature shows that people taking two or three ounces of honey daily over several months cured their ulcers.

A professor of nutrition at Texas Tech University agrees. Dr. Julian Spallhoiz said, "Honey speeds the healing of internal ulcers by providing a soothing coating for them."

Although you might not actually plan to use honey on an injury, it's good to remember that if there's no antibiotic available, it's the next best thing. Supermarket honey will do nicely.

The Heimlich alternative

After some years of use, most people know how to dislodge improperly swallowed food that is choking a person.

The Heimlich maneuver involves an inward thrust to the base of the sternum, but it must be done by another person. What happens if you're alone in your hotel room and choke on a piece of steak?

Described in the New England Journal of Medicine, is Dr. Carlyle Flake's alternative to the Heimlich maneuver which can be used by the person who is alone.

The choking person must place himself prone on an inclined surface. Face down on the bottom two or three steps of stairs is a good position. Lying head down over an armchair will do as well. Lying face down on a sofa or bed with the head hanging down is harder to arrange, but is also effective.

The main thing to remember is to lower the head as quickly as possible and let gravity take over. The person who is choking has two or three minutes of consciousness to get into the head-down position.

Screening mammogram

Every fifteen minutes three women develop breast cancer and one woman dies. One woman in ten will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Breast cancer is second only to lung cancer as a cause of cancer deaths among women. Eighty-five percent of all breast cancers occur in women over age 45. Ninety percent of women whose cancer is detected when it is less than one-quarter inch in size live for at least 20 years. Despite such sobering statistics, only 15 to 20 percent of women over age 50 have ever had a mammogram.

The American Cancer Society recommends that women with no symptoms of breast disease have a screening mammogram according to the following schedule:

Between ages 35 and 40 -- an initial baseline mammogram.

Between ages 40 and 50 -- a mammogram every one or two years, depending on a woman's personal and family history.

After age 50 -- a mammogram every year.



American Heart Month

American Forces Information Service

February is American Heart Month. Observed every February since 1964, it has been an opportunity to educate the public about prevention and treatment of heart disease.

According to the American Heart Association, 63 million Americans have some degree of cardiovascular disease, from high blood pressure to severe coronary artery disease. Some 991,300 Americans died from cardiovascular (heart and blood vessel) disease in 1985. Of these, more than half died of heart attacks, making it the leading cause of death in America today. A heart attack occurs when part of the blood supply to the heart is severely reduced or stopped because of an obstruction in one of the coronary arteries.

The second most common form of heart disease is stroke. Some 500,000 Americans have a stroke every year, and more than 150,000 die, making it the third leading cause of death in America (cancer is No. 2). A stroke occurs when a blood vessel bringing oxygen to the brain bursts or becomes clogged.

Safe Kids Week

Message from the Secretary of Defense

Accidents are responsible for more deaths and injuries to children under the age of 15 than all other causes combined, making accidents the leading health risk to children.

The President will soon be designating the week of February 12-17, 1989, as National Safe Kids Week. DOD installations and commanders at all levels are encouraged to observe this week with appropriate recognition and ceremonies focusing on prevention of childhood

accidents resulting from motor vehicles, burns, drownings, falls, choking, and poisoning.

DOD has been involved in the Safe Kids Campaign since its inception in May 1988. All of the installations and organizations which have initiated programs to educate our military families to these hazards are to be commended. Let us continue to maintain this impetus not only during Safe Kids Week, but also throughout the year.

Presidential trivia

Youngest President elected: John Kennedy - 35th (43 yrs old)

Oldest President: Ronald Reagan - 40th (69 yrs old)

Longest Term: F.D. Roosevelt - 32nd (12 yrs, 39 days)

Shortest Term: William Harrison - 9th (32 days)

Smallest President: James Madison - 4th (5'4")

Tallest President: Abe Lincoln - 16th (6'4")

Heaviest President: William Taft - 27th (340 lbs)

Biggest Family: John Tyler - 10th (8 sons, 7 daughters)

Bachelor President: James Buchanan - 15th (remained single)

Teddy Roosevelt was

youngest to ever hold office, taking the oath at 42 after McKinley's assassination.

Harrison gave the longest inauguration speech (one hour & 10 minutes). It was given outdoors and he refused to wear a hat or coat in spite of bitter cold weather. He died a month later of pneumonia. His grandson later became 23rd president.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Our Vision

We believe we are the best public engineering agency in the world, and are determined to make ourselves better to serve our Nation's needs. We must sharpen out cutting edge on the missions we have in order to prepare ourselves for yet greater service in a bright, exciting future.

Our Tradition

Our purpose is "to provide quality, responsive engineering service to the Nation in peace and war." For more than 200 years, the Army's Corps of Engineers has effectively and proudly responded to changing defense and national needs. We must be prepared to continue to respond to changing needs and environments. To remain the best public engineering agency, we must work hard together to make ourselves better, both individually and as a team...a team with shared values and loyalties, a team dedicated to common goals and priorities, both to those we serve and to each other.

Our Commitment

We are committed to our people:

People *are* the Corps. Everyone in the Corps expects and deserves to perform meaningful work in an environment that is creative and exciting. We work together as a civilian/military *team*; we care for each other as a *family*; and, without infringing on other chains of command, we embrace all Army engineers as both team and family. In the Corps, we value each other as individuals. We identify, respect and reward talent and achievement. We provide equal opportunity to all. To assure our strength in the future, we will focus on professional and leadership development to maximize personal and team growth. While we will celebrate technical excellence, we will select new leaders who demonstrate caring and inspiring leadership.

We are committed to our values:

Everything we say and do will be based on our values of integrity, quality, professionalism, and esprit de corps, underscored by a shared and mutual loyalty and personal commitment and accountability. These are our standards. We will accept no less.

We are committed to our customers and partners:

We exist as an organization only as long as we serve our customers and partners. Our ultimate customers are the taxpayers, who communicate to us through many representatives – the Congress, the President, and successive levels in the Army and the Air Force. While we focus on serving local customers, we will be loyal and accountable to all those who legitimately speak for the taxpayer and those taxpayers expect us to serve. That requires the Corps team to have a clear perspective, and exercise sound judgment.

Our Pledge

We will give equal priority to all our missions and customers/partners, military and civil, regardless of funding source. Although from time to time particular projects and activities will receive special attention, there are no low-priority missions. Once we step up to a task, it becomes our mission. All missions share equally in our dedication and, to the extent allowable, in our total resources.

We will provide the Air Force with engineering services to meet their goals and their standards of excellence.

We will support the DEH as a full partner in serving soldiers and their families and in creating "Army communities of excellence." Reimbursable support to installations and non-appropriated programs are as important to us as direct appropriated-funded construction.

We will assist the Army and DoD in meeting their total environmental responsibilities, including restoring the environmental quality of military installations. We must also focus the full force of our expertise in addressing the Nation's problems of:

- * toxic and hazardous waste clean-up;
- * disposal and maintenance of nuclear wastes;
- * protection of water resources; and
- * disposal of dredge and fill material.

We will sharpen our ability to respond to the Nation's needs in case of war. The readiness of the Corps and our industrial counterparts to mobilize is a vital element in the Army's contribution to strategic deterrence. We build our readiness by responding quickly and effectively to natural disasters and conducting our national security emergency program.

We will innovate by exploring and using new and better ways to do our job, especially in contracting and financing projects. We will standardize designs wherever feasible and tailor construction standards to better meet our customers' needs and ability to pay.

We will make the Corps team more effective by clarifying roles at each level of command. We will strengthen decentralized execution by providing appropriate guidance and central control.

We will forge new partnerships and assure that cost-sharing works. Accordingly, we will measure quality, cost, and time. To do this, we will improve program management and fully implement project management. We will conduct our customer/partner relations with open and timely communications throughout project life cycles. Furthermore, we will strengthen the Corps team by better defining goals and enhancing internal cooperation, coordination, communications, and decisions processes.

We will enjoy working together as we strive to increase our service to those who rely on our support. We will do our best to inspire others with our enthusiasm and dedication. We will always be sincere, but we will always maintain a healthy sense of humor.

We will seek new ways – beyond our current and civil missions – to meet our Army's and our Nation's needs. By selectively seeking new tasks that are fully compatible with and enhance accomplishments of our current missions, we will better serve our customers and prepare ourselves for the future. As our primary targets, we seek a broader role in developing, managing, maintaining, and repairing our Nation's infrastructure; developing, managing, and protecting our water resources; and addressing our national environmental and space challenges.

OUR VISION is to achieve a vibrant, competent, energetic, respected Corps team -- inspired by our tasks and proud of our accomplishments, yet humbled by the honor we share in serving our Nation...a Nation at Peace.