



Vol. 28 No. 2

ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

ESPRIT

February 1991

In this issue...

Disabled
... page 8

Recycling
... page 13

USO
... page 14

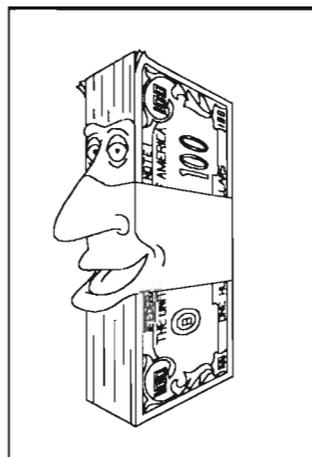
Locality pay
... page 14

Engineers Week
... pages 16 & 17

Black History



pages 7&8



**Income
tax
info**

**pages
9,10,11&12**



Corbin's Comments by Col. James E. Corbin



Hi! You folks had a "Great Article" in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Yeh, I know it was titled the "Green Colonel" - I guess that's kind of like a "visitor from outer space," but it is really a testament to each and every one of you!

What we're really about is making this world a little bit better place for all of us to live in, and that's really the underlying theme of the article. It is a true testi-

mony to you folks that with a little guidance from me and my willingness to be a "front man" that WE have been able to significantly change the image of the St. Louis District in this section of America and, in the meantime, do some good things for the Corps of Engineers. Congratulations Gang. -- You've done and are doing a Great Job!!

Who knows, we may actually be able to balance environmental and economic issues/concerns and be able to move forward with several billion dollars of economic/ecological infrastructure restorations in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The opportunity for success is there! I hope we have the courage to take the next few steps along the road to "meaningful partnerships."

I haven't heard any particularly juicy reorganization rumors lately. Please stay out of that and give BG Williams and his people a chance to deal with the development of useful recommendations, and then give LTG Hatch an opportunity to work things. They are both "good folks" and strong "people" persons, who will do everything they can to do smart things, keeping all of us in one piece, if at all possible. Reorganization is desperately needed if we (the Corps) are going to reverse this downward funding spiral that has been afflicting us for the past 10-15 years or longer. In my opinion, we cannot continue to survive as a viable force on the American scene the way we are now postured. You, the people of the Corps, have too much talent and ability to allow you to be relegated to a "bit player" or to the "library shelves of history."

On an even less pleasant topic, it appears that the grim reality of war is beginning to set in. There are no easy solutions in the Middle East. While we can all fervently pray that "air power" will prevail, it never has, by itself in the past, and it (my opinion) is unlikely to do so here. Please continue to write those of us who are already in the Middle East. Incidentally we've had about 70 people (10% of the District) volunteer for some form of duty over there. My hat is off to you and to any who go. We wish you well!

Appreciate your efforts folks! Keep working together, taking care of each other, and doing the Fantastic Job you're doing!

THANKS!!

Saudi addresses

In his last letter, Lou Chiodini supplied us his address which we published. We have since discovered that the address has changed slightly. It is now as follows: COL L.J. Chiodini, Jr., 493-34-3189, Desert Shield, HQ 416th ENGR CMD, C/O HQ ARCENT, APO New York, N.Y. 09772

The mailing address for CPT Kurtz is as follows:
DAO
CPT Robert M. Kurtz
U.S.A. Corps of Engineers
APO New York, N.Y. 09616



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

ESPRIT is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published monthly, by contract, in 1450 copies, by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

District Commander.....James E. Corbin
Act.Chief, Public Affairs.....Chuck Franco
Editor, Design, Layout.....Ken Kruchowski
Assistant Editor.....Mary Lou Lawson
Address mail to: U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis, ATTN: CELMS - PA, 1222 Spruce, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833. Phone: (314) 331-8000.



Letter from Red Cross

Last month Dr. William V. Miller, Chief Executive Officer of the St. Louis Bi-State Chapter, Missouri/Illinois Regional Blood Services, sent a letter to all blood services supporters and customers of the Missouri/Illinois Regional Blood Services. In the letter Dr. Miller talks about last month's CBS news program "60 Minutes" critical segment on the American Red Cross blood program.

The "60 Minutes" report focused on the closure of the Washington, D.C., and Albany, N.Y., regions and related problems at American Red Cross National Headquarters. Specific issues addressed were alleged poor ARC National Headquarters management leadership; recently publicized problems with FDA inspections; 16 cases of HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) transmission that occurred since 1985 (according to FDA records); faulty record keeping and computer systems identified by the FDA that still have not been corrected; laxity of the "look-back" efforts; and the decision made in 1985 to test newly donated blood for HIV before testing blood in inventory.

According to Dr. Miller, the Missouri/Illinois blood region has made vast improvements since February 1988, when they were cited for various non-compliance issues; as a result, their blood supply is safer than ever. Specifically, they have:

- * Increased their resources for performing internal quality assurance audits by adding four staff members to a function previously performed by one.

- * Increased staff in regulated areas including the Donor Deferral Registry and laboratories.

- * Instituted a new computer system that provides better control of product distribution and of the Donor Deferral Registry.

- * Implemented more steps for review of work performed.

As a result, Dr. Miller said, FDA citations for non-compliance have decreased dramatically. They went from 28 laboratory citations in the February 1988 inspection to no laboratory citations and only two computer citations in the May 1990 inspection.

Additionally, he said, the Red Cross, on a national scale, continues to implement steps to make its blood supply as safe as it can be. The Red Cross now performs seven tests for disease, takes an extended donor history and offers donors the opportunity to confidentially exclude their donation from being used. In January, the Red Cross introduced a more comprehensive "Blood Donation Record" form that will further screen potential donors.

Suggestion Campaign

Here are the Army Ideas for Excellence Program results for the first quarter of FY 1991.

Number of suggestions received : 12

Number of suggestions adopted: 4

Average processing time: 56.2 days

Amount paid in cash awards: \$4,247

Number of cash awards: 4

First-year measurable benefits:

\$179,271

At the end of the fourth quarter FY 1990 the average processing time of Completed Suggestions was 88 days.

That time has been cut to 56.2 days for the first quarter FY 1991 and is

expected to drop even farther. The Department of Army goal for processing suggestions is 60 days.

Ste. Genevieve now a river museum

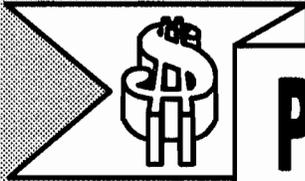
The historic Corps of Engineers paddlewheel dredge, the Ste. Genevieve has returned home to the St. Louis area. Now located on the Missouri riverfront in St. Charles, the boat is slated to become a great rivers museum and educational center when it opens to the public in April.

The Marine Learning Institute, a not-for-profit organization which has been in existence since 1980, now owns and operates the vessel, which was built in 1932.

A group of supporters called the "Friends of the Ste. Genevieve" is now being formed. Former crew members of the dredge as well as other current or retired Corps employees are invited to become a part of the endeavor. The institute is hoping these people will come forward with memorabilia to add to the exhibits being planned.

Organizers with the institute are also seeking Corps people who may have stories about the boat. Your input may be used in exhibits or in media interviews to promote the new museum. The material may also be incorporated into a videotape about the boat which will be shown in the theater planned in the former crew's quarters.

Corps employees who live near the St. Louis metro area are also encouraged to volunteer their time as guides in this new educational center. For information on how you can get involved, call the Marine Learning Institute at (314) 947-1293.



Promotions & Incentive Awards



PROMOTIONS:

Kevin Curran, OD
 Howard Fields, OD
 Harry Hamell, RE
 Marvis Houltz, CASU
 Sylvester Jackson, CASU
 Andrea Pickard, OD
 James Pierce, OD
 Timothy Rozycki, IM

PERFORMANCE AWARDS:

Michael Banovz, IR
 Jacqueline Becker, OD
 Daniel Camden, OD
 James Conner, OD
 Era Greer, OD
 Carol Hilderbrand, ED
 Michael Houser, PM
 Joseph Kissane, ED
 Kathleen Kornberger, PM
 Vernon Oettle, OD
 Maggie Patterson, EEO
 Andrea Pickard, OD

Billie Sanna, OD
 Lucille Schuitze, PO
 Michael Thompson, CD
 Debra Williams, OD

QUALITY STEP INCREASES:

Jeanette Wellen, OD

SPECIAL ACT AWARDS:

Michael Banovz, IR
 Farrell Burnett, CD
 Chuck Franco, DX
 Richard Howald, OD
 William Levins, OC
 Richard Pearce, OD
 William Sutton, PM
 Robert Thornton, OD
 Claudia Tonsor, ED

EXCEPTIONAL RATINGS:

Gerald Allen, CD
 Mark Alvey, ED

Michael Banovz, IR
 Victor Behrmann, ED
 Natalie Eschemann, PD
 Edgar Falkner, ED
 Russell Feltmeyer, OD
 Era Greer, OD
 William Groth, OD
 Michael Hamm, ED
 Richard Howald, OD
 John Jobst, IM
 Steven Jones, OD
 Kathleen Kornberger, PM
 Sharon Leeker, IM
 Lisa Lubiewski, CD
 Fred McLard, ED
 Keith McMullen, OD
 William Meldrum, ED
 Calvin Mooney, ED
 Michael Navin, ED
 Harold Schweiger, CD
 Phillip Skaggs, OD
 William Stabaugh, DC
 Richard Ubben, CD
 Harry Ward, ED

Accident Summary

PERSONAL INJURIES - GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - JANUARY 91: Two

Total accidents for FY91: Two
 Total accidents for FY90: Thirteen

A deckhand suffered a fractured rib while lifting a log out of the suction head of a dredge.

An electrician suffered a strain to his shoulder as well as contusions to his leg after falling while entering an access hatch on a motor vessel.

PERSONAL INJURIES - CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES - JANUARY 91: One

Total accidents for FY91: Four
 Total accidents for FY90: Eight

A crew member on a contract dredge sustained bruises to a leg, knees and shoulder after falling on the front deck of a dredge.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - JANUARY 91: None

Total vehicle accidents for FY91: None
 Total vehicle accidents for FY90: Five

LAKE FATALITIES - JANUARY 91: One

Total lake fatalities for FY91: One

Lake Shelbyville - 1

A victim drove her POV off a boat launching ramp into the lake.

Total lake fatalities for FY90: Five

Carlyle Lake - 1

Lake Shelbyville - 1

Rend Lake - 2

Wappapello Lake - 1



On the Soapbox

Telling the District's story this month were:

Riverlands Office

Riverlands Area Manager Pat McGinnis, Interpretive Ranger Anne Vieira, and IPA Ray Breun briefed the Mississippi River Parkway Commissioners from Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky on progress being made in the Riverlands Region.

Visitor Assistance Ranger Brad Laaker and Pat McGinnis were the guests of Larry Reed on his "Hook, Line and Sinker" program on WBGZ radion. Topics covered included Riverlands activities and the office's public watch program initiated to deter vandalism and dumping on public lands.

Riverlands Assistant Manager Dan Erickson addressed the Illinois and Missouri Trail Coalition regarding trail linkage opportunities in the American Bottoms and along the Chain of Rocks Canal.

Pat McGinnis addressed the Lewis and Clark Society and special guest Illinois Senator Sam Vadalabene on open space opportunities in the Riverlands region, particularly at the American Bottoms Wetland Preservation project.

McGinnis also updated the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club on Riverlands activities.

McGinnis was the featured speaker at the second Academic Council for Riverlands Education meeting. The meeting was held in conjunction with

the Riverlands exhibit currently being displayed at the Old Post Office in Alton, Illinois, through early March.

McGinnis was also featured speaker at the Museum Collaborative meeting addressing opportunities and the Corps in the Riverlands region. Anne Vieira and Ray Breun also attended.

Dan Erickson hosted Deputy Division Commander (LMVD), LTC Newsham, on a tour of the Environmental Demonstration Area.

The Riverlands Area Office also hosted Construction Division Chief (LMV) Jack Hill and staff for lunch. Tours of the dam and EDA were given by Dan Erickson.

Rend Lake

The staff at Rend Lake had been on the road promoting recreation opportunities at Corps lakes in the District. Rachel Garren represented Rend Lake at the Chicago Boat, Sports and RV Show. Dawn Kovarik worked the Corps display at the First Wabash Valley Sport, Boat and Vacation Show in Terre Haute.

Park Ranger Mike Edwards did an interview for WCEE, Channel 13, in Mt. Vernon about the Christmas tree collection/fish habitat program.

Ken Pierson spoke to 35 Lion's Club members at the Circle R Steakhouse in West Frankfort about the Corps of Engineers in the 90s: Investing for the Environment.

Park Manager, Phil Jenkins, was interviewed by KFVS, Channel 12, in Cape Girardeau concerning the results of the recent study of privatization of Corps facilities.

Lake Shelbyville

Park Aids Toni Cyr, Dee Carlock and Terri Morris took 12 guests from the Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek on a tour of the dam.

Park Ranger Bill Campbell helped staff a booth representing Corps of Engineers lakes at the Chicago boat show.

Park Ranger Leanne Crouch, along with Rangers Andrea Pickard (Carlyle) and Dawn Kovarik (Rend), staffed a booth promoting the Corps of Engineers lakes at the Terre Haute boat show.

Mark Twain Lake

Assistant Park Manager David Berti attended the 1991 Chicago Boat, Sport and R.V. Show. The Corps' participation was coordinated by Joe Smothers at Carlyle Lake. Dave helped to inform people in the Chicago area about the recreational opportunities available at Corps' lakes.

Carlyle Lake

Park Rangers Joe Smothers and Shane Peltis participated in the Chicago Boat, Sports and RV show promoting recreational opportunities within the St. Louis District. The five-day show drew about 200,000+ visitors.

Park Ranger Andrea Pickard attended the Wabash Valley Boat Show in Terre Haute, Indiana, in order to promote the recreational opportunities available in the St. Louis District. The show ran five days.



NEWS BRIEFS

Fish habitat

About 1000 Christmas trees were collected from 10 towns around Rend Lake for use in the Fish Habitat Program. These trees will be tied together and dropped into the lake in mid-February to provide habitat and refuge for a variety of fishes.

New ranger

Park Aid Kim Mayhew, who has worked as a Stay-in-School Park Aid at Rend Lake for the past three years, has accepted a position as a Park Ranger at Carlyle Lake.

Scouts upgrade

Park Ranger Doug Nichols and Assistant Park Manager Gary Stilts from Wappapello Lake are helping the Girl Scouts of America with plans to upgrade the recreational facilities at Camp Latonka. They also offered technical assistance with the establishment of the Pioneer Camp which will be used for environmental education for Scouts visiting the camp.

Crappiethon

Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson and Crappiethon USA representatives have finalized application procedures for a two-month fishing tournament to be held at Wappapello Lake. A total of \$366,775 in prizes are being offered for this year's tournament. This will be the second year the Crappiethon has been held at the lake.

Environment work

The Mingo Job Corps has volunteered to assist the resource staff at

Wappapello Lake with several environmental projects. The vocational institution is volunteering labor to construct steel access gates, assist with the establishment of fish shelters, and construct wood duck boxes.

The local Audubon chapter has volunteered labor to construct and install about 25 bluebird boxes. They will then inventory the boxes in early spring for nesting success.

Eagle Days

The Second Annual Eagle Days was held on January 12 and 13 at the M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center at Mark Twain Lake. Audubon Society member, Howard Gowan, and the University of Missouri Raptor Rehabilitation Program were special guests at the event. The University provided visitors the chance to view live birds of prey, such as the turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, barred owl and great horned owl up close. Students from the University talked to visitors about how birds of prey live. Visitors also enjoyed listening to Howard Gowan speak on the bald eagle's habitat and survival.

Worker in Panama

Mark Twain Lake maintenance worker Bill Loughridge is currently on furlough and stationed in Panama as part of a Missouri National Guard Unit.

Riverlands Assoc.

The Riverlands Association received official approval through its articles of incorporation signed January 11, 1991.

The Riverlands Association is the not-for-profit association of the Riverlands Area Office which will provide the St. Louis District with a vehicle to provide more goods and services to the public.

The Association's Board is chaired by Dr. Ray Breun, who is also Director of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Historical Association. The Board had its first meeting January 30 in Alton.

Lots of eagles

Between 100 and 150 eagles were spotted at Eagle Days held January 26-27th at Clarksville. Riverlands Ranger Lawrence Williams, who assisted at the event, said attendance exceeded 3,300 visitors. Anne Vieira coordinated the event with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Springfield Zoo.

Post article

The Sunday January 27th edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch featured an excellent article on Colonel Corbin and the St. Louis District environmental endeavors on the cover of the Everyday section. Congratulations to all who were involved.

More fish habitat

Carlyle Lake staff, in cooperation with IDOC fisheries biologist, Harry Wight, collected about 1,700 Christmas trees to be used as fish habitat. The trees will be placed in Allen Branch in mid-February.

Eagle survey

Carlyle Lake Rangers, in cooperation with IDOC, participated in the Illinois mid-winter Bald Eagle survey. The results will be used to estimate the eagle population in Illinois. Two bald eagles were sighted. The low number is attributed to lack of open water because of subfreezing temperatures.



Former slaves, black troops buried in Arlington Cemetery

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Information Service

All my friends and their families have moved away. Our home isn't the same, it feels barren and lonely. Often my mother has the saddest look on her face. They have begun tearing down the other houses and it feels like my heart's being torn down along with it. I suppose nothing good lasts forever. I wonder what they'll do with this land next?

-- From a letter by a former slave who lived in Freedman's Village overlooking the Potomac River and the nation's capital.

"They" -- the federal government -- made the land part of what is perhaps the most famous cemetery in the nation -- Arlington (VA) National Cemetery.

More than 200,000 veterans and their dependents are buried on the 612 acres of land, from such famous Americans as five-star General of the Army Omar N. Bradley to World War II hero Audie Murphy to President John F. Kennedy to heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis.

Each year, nearly 4 million visitors walk the tourist's path past rows of headstones bearing the names of service members known only to their loved ones. But that path doesn't lead to Section 27.

Located near the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial, Section 27 is where the names on some 5,000 tombstones read: "citizen" or "civilian" or "USCT," for U.S. Colored Troops. It's the burial site of more than 3,800 former slaves who lived in Freedman's Village and some 2,200

members of the U.S. Colored Troops who fought in the Civil War. At least three of them are African Americans who received the Medal of Honor for bravery on the battlefield during the Civil War.

The first military man buried in Arlington National Cemetery was William Christman -- he was white. He was buried in Section 27.

In 1863, Contraband -- the name for black refugees or escaped slaves -- Camp was established on the Arlington estate of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. It sprawled north from what are now the amphitheater and the Tomb of the Unknowns to Section 27. It was renamed Freedman's Village in 1865. More than 1,000 people lived there. The federal government gave each family a plot of land to farm and \$10 a month. Their rent was \$3 per month.

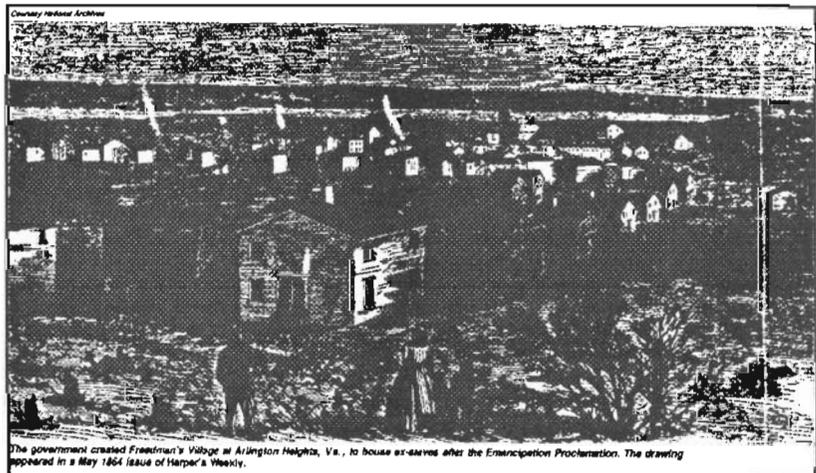
The village existed for more than 30 years, providing housing, education, employment training, medical care and food for former slaves who had migrated to the capitol area.

Today, the grass is kept trimmed, the trees pruned and prim, but no one has paid much other attention to Section 27 over the years. Now former members

of the famous World War II "Triple Nickels" 555th Parachute Infantry Division, the first all-black parachute outfit, are trying to preserve and beautify the area as part of American military history.

The Arlington County school system seems to have done more to highlight the historical importance of Freedman's Village than any other organization. Most of the credit goes to Arlington teacher Bobbi Schildt. Schildt did research at the Library of Congress, National Archives and various other historical museums and uncovered a whole slew of documents. She took copies of the documents and letters she uncovered to the classroom. As a class project, her 1984 7th graders produced a book entitled *Freedman's Village*.

"I wanted the students to see and understand things about local history, including black history," said Schildt. "Arlington became a Civil War cemetery, but part of black history that was there was virtually wiped off the map. I guess my ultimate goal for the students was to preserve history and find out about it."





Museum features great blacks in wax

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Information Service

It's neither as large nor as famous as Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in London or Potter's Wax Museum in St. Augustine, Fla., yet it's distinctive: The Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore features military and civilian historical figures such as Hannibal, Sojourner Truth, Fredrick Douglas, astronaut Guy Bluford, Air Force Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, Nelson and Winnie Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., Haile Selassie and a host of other famous black people.

Devoted solely to the study and preservation of African-American history, it's the only wax museum in America, perhaps the world, that highlights black people's struggles,

achievements and contributions in the world community.

Tulani Salahu-Din, museum director, said there are 35 scenes featuring more than 100 life-size wax figures. Scenes highlight ancient Africa, the Egyptian civilization, the Renaissance, Colonial America and slavery periods, Reconstruction, civil rights and the present. Other scenes include the Revolutionary War, runaway slaves, the Masons, black church in America, freedom fighters, abolitionists, Civil War heroes, black cowboys, astronauts, explorers, educators, military personnel and scientists and inventors.

"The museum was established in 1983 in what was called a storefront museum, which housed about 35 wax figures," said Salahu-Din. "Since it was such a unique facility, the little museum received a lot of school

groups and media attention. Baltimore college educators Elmer and Joanne Martin founded the facility.

The Martins decided to use life-size wax figures clothed in appropriate historical or cultural attire to capture the attention of youngsters who find reading history boring. The heads and hands are made of 100 percent beeswax, with human hair, surgical eyes and dental acrylic teeth. The heads and hands are shipped to the museum where the figures are assembled using mannequins for the bodies.

The museum is located at 1601 E. North Ave., Baltimore, Md. It's open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

DoD, OPM honor disabled workers

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Information Service

They came to the Pentagon with diseases and disabilities -- cerebral palsy, rheumatoid arthritis, polio, spinal meningitis, paralysis, muscular dystrophy, deafness, blindness. They came not for sympathy or treatment. They came from across the nation and overseas to be honored for outstanding contributions to national defense.

In addition to receiving Department of Defense certificates of merit from the secretary of defense, five were co-winners in the government wide disability awards competition conducted by the Office of Personnel Management. Presented the 1990 OPM Outstanding Federal Employee with Disabilities Award were:

Clarence J. Bennett, coding clerk at the Navy's Enlisted Personnel Management Center, New Orleans, who has cerebral palsy;

Carol A. Fudge, secretary with the Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, Fort Rucker, AL, who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis and Felty Syndrome;

Paul S. Keenan, Jr., inventory management specialist, Defense Construction Supply Center, Defense Logistics Agency, Columbus, Ohio, who is partially deaf;

Mary Lynn Halverson, supervisory computer specialist, Command and Control Systems Center, Tinker Air Force Base, OK., who is partially paralyzed; and

Margaret M. Spezia, accounting technician, Defense Mapping Agency, Aerospace Center, St. Louis, who has a form of muscular dystrophy.

OPM started its awards program in 1968. In 1981, the secretary of defense inaugurated a program to honor DoD nominees for the OPM award.

Bennett is a Special Olympics champion and head coach of the New Orleans Hurricanes, a track and field team whose members have cerebral palsy.

Fudge, has been secretary to the director of the Army laboratory's Biomedical Applications Research Division for 19 years. She said she accepted her award on behalf of all handicapped people.

Spezia is a wheelchair racer, parasailor and is working on a degree in management information systems.

Halverson holds a master's degree in business accounting and computer science from the University of New Mexico Graduate School.

"I think some people who don't have a disability should be made to sit in a wheelchair and move around for a week, to see how they would deal with the world and how inaccessible the world is to them," she said. "It would really be an eye-opener."



Your Rights as a taxpayer

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights, signed into law as part of the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act on Nov. 10, 1988, clarifies and extends the rights of taxpayers.

Internal Revenue Service officials say highlights of the Bill of Rights section include:

- * Personal and financial information will be kept confidential;
- * Interest will be paid on delayed refunds;
- * Right to appeal examiner's audit findings; and
- * Free assistance in preparing returns by providing publications, and telephone and walk-in service.

Under the act, a taxpayer can request that penalties be dropped if the advice given by IRS employees is erroneous. However, the interest due will not be cancelled.

According to the IRS, a person has to show that reliance on the advice was reasonable and that the tax return was filed after receiving the information from the IRS. To determine if

there is reasonable cause, the IRS needs the date and time of the call; name of the IRS employee; the question asked and the specific facts given to the employee; the answer given by the IRS; and if the taxpayer tried to find the answer in any IRS publication.

A taxpayer is liable for the least amount of tax due under the law. If the tax return is questioned, the IRS must send a letter requesting more information or explaining why a change needs to be made to the return.

If additional taxes are owed, the IRS will send a bill describing the tax and how much is owed. If the taxpayer is unable to pay the bill, the IRS may agree to payment by installments.

Either before or at an interview, the IRS must explain the audit system and how it works. The taxpayer has the right to ask that the time and place for the audit be convenient. The taxpayer also has the right to have an attorney, certified public accountant or other

authorized individual accompany or represent him at the audit.

If a taxpayer is successful in a court action against the IRS, the court may decide that the government will pay reasonable litigation and administrative costs.

A taxpayer may bring court action against the federal government to recover the lesser of actual damages up to \$100,000 or actual economic damages plus costs of the court action if an IRS employee recklessly or intentionally violates the Internal Revenue Code or regulations.

The IRS must wait 30 days before seizing property after notifying the taxpayer of the seizure action. Also, after a bank levy is served, there is a 21-day hold period before the funds will be sent to the IRS. The levy takes effect on the day the bank receives it.

A complete summary of a taxpayer's rights is in IRS Publication 1, *Your Rights as a Taxpayer*. Copies are available by calling 1-800-829-3676.

IRS pubs make tax filing easier

The Internal Revenue Service wants to make it easier to file 1990 income taxes. As part of this effort, the IRS constantly updates information in its free publications.

Providing step-by-step instructions and answering commonly asked questions on specific topics, the brochures and forms are available by contacting the IRS.

IRS officials said an individual may need answers or more information not available in the standard 1040 packets. Ranging from owning a farm or business to child care and moving, each publication discusses a specific tax aspect in depth.

Some frequently requested publications are:

- * Publication 1, *Your Rights as a Taxpayer*
- * Publication 3, *Tax Information for Military Personnel*
- * Publication 17, *Your Federal Income Tax*
- * Publication 503, *Child and Dependent Care Expenses*
- * Publication 504, *Tax Information for Divorced or Separated Individuals*
- * Publication 521, *Moving Expenses*
- * Publication 523, *Tax Information on Selling Your Home*
- * Publication 525, *Taxable and Nontaxable Income*
- * Publication 530, *Tax Information for Homeowners*
- * Publication 596, *Earned Income Credit*
- * Publication 910, *Guide to Free Tax Services*

Other forms needed to complete income tax returns may include:

- * Form 1040X, "Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return"
- * Form 2119, "Sale of Your Home"
- * Form 2848, "Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative"
- * Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return"
- * Form 8822, "Change of Address"

For copies of these publications and others, call toll free 1-800-829-3676 or write:

**Internal Revenue Service
Forms Distribution Service
PO Box 25866
Richmond, VA 23289**



How to fix tax return errors

The Internal Revenue Service makes it easy to correct 1990 tax forms with errors, such as income not reported, deductions not taken or credit and deductions taken in error.

Use the "fix-it" form, IRS Form 1040X, "Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return," to correct any previously filed Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ.

With a copy of the form in hand, figure the correct income and tax. If a tax refund is due, wait about 10 weeks after filing the original tax return before sending in the amended return. If additional taxes are owed, however, mail the corrected return with the form and tax payment before April 15 to avoid late penalties and interest charges.

Generally, the corrected return and form must be filed within three years from the due date of the original return or two years from the time the tax was paid, whichever is later.

It is not necessary to file an amended return to correct errors in math. IRS computers will automatically correct math errors when the returns are processed. The IRS will write the taxpayer if any more schedules or forms are required.

IRS special office resolves tax problems

Solving problems between taxpayers and the Internal Revenue Service is the job of the IRS Problem Resolution Office at local IRS centers.

These offices can assist with:

- * Information and help if more than 45 days have passed since the first request for action;

- * Status of tax refund if it has been at least 90 days since the return was filed and the IRS has been previously contacted;

- * Incorrect IRS actions;
- * Notices that have been

- answered for which a third notice arrives;

- * Problems remaining after discussing an IRS employee's recommendations or action with his supervisor; and

- * Suspension of agency actions under certain circumstances.

The office can help taxpayers who have chronic tax problems, said agency officials. For example, a taxpayer receives notices of taxes due, but owes nothing and has repeatedly advised the IRS.

Problem resolution offices can't solve every problem, however, IRS officials stress. Their authority doesn't stretch to appealing technical determinations in an audit, nor can they become involved in personnel issues or criminal investigations, IRS employee conduct or in Freedom of Information and Privacy Act requests.

IRS explains which 1040 to use

Sometimes the hardest part in filling out federal income taxes is deciding which Form 1040 to use. Internal Revenue Service officials say there are guidelines that a person can use in deciding which is the best form for filing taxes.

Use Form 1040EZ if:

- * Filing status is single (under 65 and not blind);

- * Claiming only one exemption (self); and

- * Taxable income is less than \$50,000 — all of which came from wages, salaries, tips, taxable scholarships and fellowships — and does not include more than \$400 in interest earnings.

Use Form 1040A if:

- * Any filing status;
- * Claiming one or more exemptions;
- * Claiming blind or over age 64 exemption;

- * Taxable income is less than \$50,000 — may consist of wages, salaries, tips, taxable scholarships and fellowships, dividends, unemployment compensation or more than \$400 in interest;

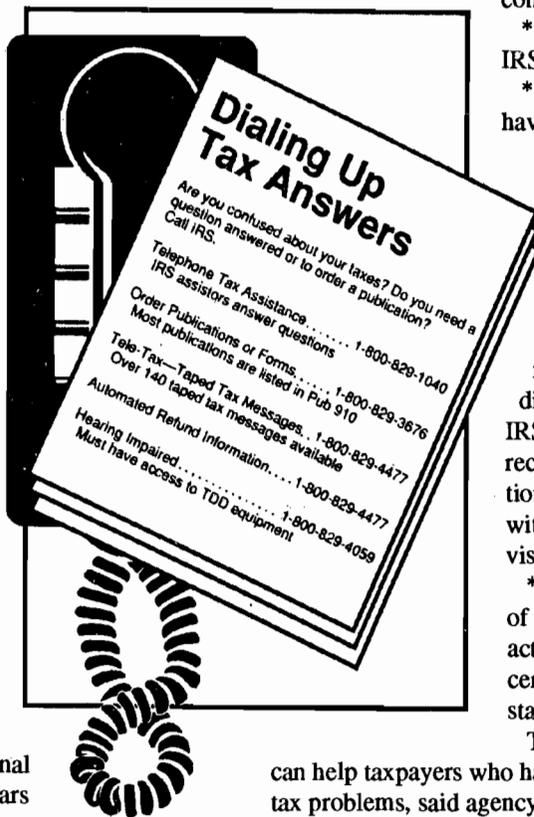
- * Claiming contributions (other than "rollovers") to an IRA;

- * Claiming advanced earned income credit payments; and

- * Claiming child and dependent care and earned income credits.

Form 1040 should be used for tax filing for any situation not covered by Form 1040EZ or 1040A.

IRS officials said to use the form that allows the reporting of all income or tax payments and provides as many tax benefits as possible. It should speed up any refund, they added.





House expenses can cut taxes

The expenses that go along with owning or selling a home can help cut income taxes. Deductions for some home improvements and repair bills, closing costs and mortgage interest are just a few ways.

Internal Revenue Service officials stress taxpayers should be extremely careful when determining what they can and can't use as expenses. For example, ordinary repairs and upkeep are not deductible, but work that is part of a remodeling project can be added to the owner's basis in the home. The basis is the owner's actual investment for tax purposes, officials explained.

Make sure that all requirements and restrictions are met for each deduction before taking it, officials said.

Some deductible homeowner expenses are:

- * Closing costs -- property taxes paid at settlement;
- * Points -- qualifying points if the loan is used to buy or improve the residence;
- * Mortgage interest -- qualifying mortgage interest as an itemized deduction on Schedule A; and
- * Casualty and theft -- some limited losses.

Most deductible expenses associated with selling a home are figured in with the tax on the gain from the sale.

These include advertising costs, loan charges and legal fees.

Paying tax on the gain from the house sale may be postponed if another house is bought within two years before or after the sale and the purchase price is at least as much as the adjusted sales price of the one sold.

Decorating and repairs done to sell the house cannot be deducted from the profit, but they may affect the amount of gain on which the tax is postponed.

Many IRS publications deal with owning a home and taxes. Some of these are:

- * Publication 523, *Tax Information on Selling Your Home*
- * Publication 530, *Tax Information for Homeowners*
- * Publication 545, *Interest Expense*
- * Publication 936, *Limits on Home Mortgage Interest*
- * Form 2119, "Sale of Your Home"

Your errors can delay tax refunds

Taxpayer errors on income tax returns can add two or more weeks to the normal eight-week processing time, slowing down refund checks.

More than 11 million 1989 federal income tax returns had taxpayer errors. Taxpayers should double check their returns and look for these common mistakes;

- * Missing or incorrect Social Security number;
- * Name incorrectly entered;
- * Math error in computing taxes;
- * Wrong Tax form used;

Child care costs could cut taxes

Child or dependent care expenses may qualify as a credit on federal tax returns. Based on the taxpayer's adjusted gross income, the credit could be as much as \$720 for one qualifying person or \$1,440 for two or more.

The qualifying dependent must be the taxpayer's child, disabled dependent or disabled spouse. The tax return must be filed using Form 1040 or 1040A. The taxpayer -- and spouse if married -- must work or be looking for work. Married couples must file a joint return.

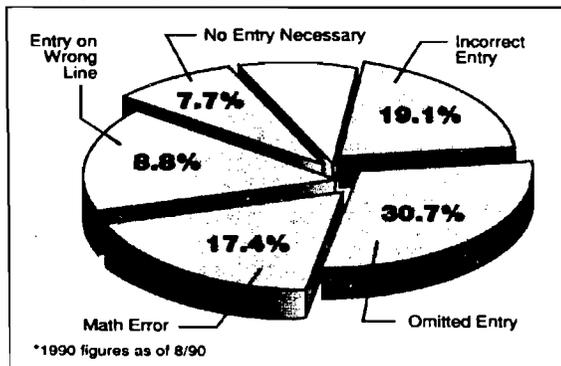
Social Security numbers are required on the tax return for dependents aged 2 and older. If the number has been requested but not received by the time the return is filed, write "Applied for" in the space provided for that dependent's number.

The name, address and Social Security number for the dependent care provider must also be listed on the tax return. If some information is unavailable, the taxpayer must be able to show that an effort was made to get it.

Calculation of the care credit, requirements and limits are explained in the Internal Revenue Service Publication 503, *Child and Dependent Care Expenses*. Call 1-800-829-3676 for a copy of the publication.

Five Most Common Taxpayer Errors

These five most common errors make up more than half of all taxpayers' errors on their federal tax returns.



- * Missing Form W-2 or other supporting documents;
- * Total tax not entered;
- * Standard deduction not claimed;
- * Earned income credit not claimed when entitled;
- * Status boxes not checked;
- * Tax form not signed;
- * Wrong entry for estimated payments; and
- * Duplicate return filed.



IRS bits and pieces

Internal Revenue Service officials say it takes about eight weeks for a return to be processed and the refund check mailed to the taxpayer.

An automated refund system has been set up for people wanting to check the status of their returns. Wait at least eight weeks after filing before calling 1-800-829-4477 for an update. The IRS can track down the return given the taxpayer's full name, Social Security number, filing status and exact amount of expected refund.

The system, open Monday through Friday, is updated once a week. If you have a push button phone, call between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.; hours for a rotary phone are local business hours.

IRS officials say the best time to check on a refund status is Wednesday mornings.

\$ \$ \$ \$

The Internal Revenue Service offers many free services to help taxpayers with their federal income tax returns. Tax publications, telephone services, walk-in assistance, volunteer and education programs and information for the blind are just a few examples. For more information, call 1-800-829-

3676 and ask for a copy of IRS Publication 910, *Guide to Free Tax Services*.

\$ \$ \$ \$

Employer educational assistance may be considered as part of an individual's taxable income. Internal Revenue Service Publication 508, *Educational Expenses*, explains employer-related educational aid. Call 1-800-829-3676 for a free copy.

\$ \$ \$ \$

Students who are 24 years or older by the end of 1990 and who have a gross income of \$2,050 or more may not be claimed as dependents by their parents. For information concerning student exemptions and dependency rules, call 1-800-829-3676 and request Publication 929, *Tax Rules for Children and Dependents*.

\$ \$ \$ \$

Interest from Series EE U.S. Savings Bonds purchased after Dec. 31, 1989, may be excluded from taxable income under certain conditions if used for higher-education expenses. Publication 550, *Investment Income and Expenses*, explains the program. Call 1-800-829-3676 for a free copy.

Marital status affects tax bottom line

Divorce and legal separation can affect aspects of federal tax filing, including alimony, child support payments and exemptions for dependents. The Internal Revenue Service's Publication 504, *Tax Information for Divorced or Separated Individuals*, discusses each tax aspect affected by a marital breakup.

The IRS generally considers a person unmarried if there is a legal separation under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance.

A dependent child may be claimed by only one parent, usually the one

who has custody. Non-custodial parents may claim exemptions only by proving they met IRS support tests or by having custodial parents sign an IRS Form 8332, "Release of Claim to Exemption for Child of Divorced or Separated Parents," or similar statement.

Decrees or written statements before 1985 have special provisions, said IRS officials.

Alimony and separate maintenance payments are taxable income to the recipient and deductible by the one who pays. However, child support payments are neither taxable income nor deductible.

Moving expenses can cut taxes

A job-related move in 1990 can provide tax deductions when filing federal taxes, if certain requirements are met. Internal Revenue Service officials say prerequisites include:

- * Primary job must be at least 35 miles farther from the previous home than the former job locations.

- * Moving expenses must have been incurred within one year from the date the person first reported to work at the new locations.

- * The taxpayer or spouse (if filing a joint return) must have been employed full time for at least 39 weeks during the first year after arriving in the area of the new job.

According to IRS officials, if the requirements are met, certain unreimbursed moving expenses may be deducted, including:

- * 80 percent of the cost of meals and lodging while in temporary housing at the new locations;

- * Unreimbursed travel costs, to include transportation, lodging and 80 percent of the cost of meals;

- * Cost of house-hunting trips made prior to the move, but after getting the new job;

- * Most expenses associated with selling or buying a new home, or settling or getting a lease; and
- * Shipping costs for personal items and household goods.

Information on moving deductions, including eligibility requirements and deductible costs, is available in Publication 521, *Moving Expenses*.

Court costs and legal fees spent in obtaining a divorce are not deductible. However, the portion of legal costs covering any divorce-related tax advice is an itemized deduction.



The Recycling Corner

Individually and as a nation we have begun to realize that we cannot continue to exist as a "throw away" society. Not only are our natural resources being depleted, but the landfill capacity to handle trash is fast being exhausted. Conservation of resources and recycling/reuse of materials is becoming a matter of necessity. We all share a responsibility to do what we can, both corporately and individually, to solve the trash problem and to preserve a liveable world for our children and grandchildren.

A recycling committee, chaired by Sharon McGee (ED-R) and including members from all District elements, has been formed to initiate a program for recycling within the District Office. The committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 0730 hours in the Engineering Division third floor conference room.

The committee has initiated a program to recycle aluminum cans with the proceeds going to charitable organizations. Containers which meet the requirements of GSA are now in place. Eight of these containers have been placed at the following locations: The 3rd floor kitchen area, 4th floor kitchen area (M13), 4th floor kitchen area (F5), 4th floor kitchen area (near door 4.204), 4th floor hallway (D9), Personnel Office (near copy machine), and CASU (2 cans). Proceeds from

these locations will be contributed to the St. Louis Abused Women's Support Project.

Some of you may not be familiar with the work of the St. Louis Abused Women's Support Project. Founded in 1978 in response to the growing needs of women and children who find themselves victims of domestic violence, the Support Project provides a comprehensive program of services

in the St. Louis metropolitan area for battered women and their children. These services include temporary living quarters, counseling, and group support.

The objective of the Support Project is to show

women they have a choice. They do not

have to exist in a dangerous and abusive situation. Every person has the right to be treated as a human being.

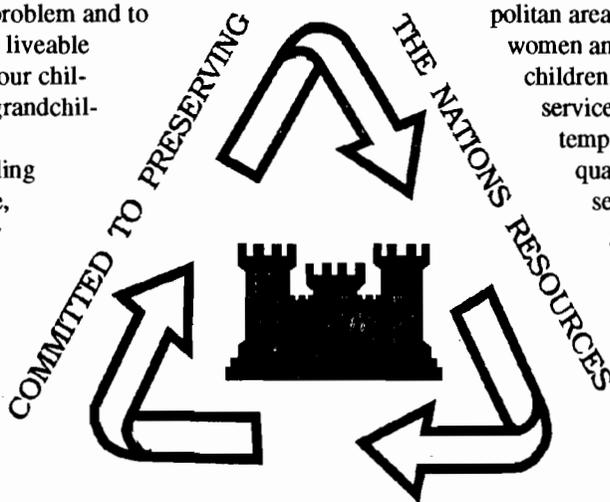
In addition to the eight containers mentioned above, two additional containers have replaced the cardboard boxes previously used as collection receptacles in the Geotechnical Branch (4-M12-1) and the Hydraulic Branch (4-H9-4). Proceeds from these locations will continue to go to the areas of work for which they were previously designated.

The aluminum can recycling project is an easy way to be responsible for our environment and at the same time feel good about having contributed to some very worthy causes. It cost us

nothing. The only thing required is that we take an extra few steps and place our soda cans in the designated containers. LOOK for these containers and PITCH IN.

We recognize that the aluminum can recycling effort is only a small beginning. However, no journey has ever been completed before the first small steps were taken. It is our hope that we may soon be able to expand our efforts into other areas. The committee welcomes comments, ideas and interest. You may contact Sharon or any of the committee members listed below if you have questions or comments.

Steele Beller, RE-M, Jane Barnhart, CASU, Karen Blum, CASU, Barbara Collier, LM, Connie Driscoll, PO, Carolyn Foster, DC, Judy Griffith, LM-F, Janice Hitchcock, ED-DM, Richard Pearce, OD-B, Thomas Quigley, ED-D, Anne Woodrome, PO-R, Betty Jo Yuncker, IM, Mark Alvey, ED-GE, Jerry Hawkins, ED-GI, Irene Jameson, DC, Tania Varner, DC.



Warning on mail to troops

Military officials are advising families and friends of soldiers stationed in the Persian Gulf to avoid writing their names and return addresses on letters and packages bound for the Middle East, as a precaution against terrorist attacks.

Officials emphasize that this is just a precaution.

AT&T is offering to send free faxed messages of support to U.S. troops from anyone wishing to send one. For further details on Operation Desert Fax, call 1-800-555-8111. The faxed messages can get to the troops within 48 hours, according to AT&T.



USO celebrates its golden anniversary

By F. Peter Wigginton
American Forces Information Service

For 50 years, United Services Organization centers around the world have provided a "home away from home" for American GIs.

Whether to use an ironing board or change diapers at a national airport, take a tour in Rome, savor a cheeseburger on Okinawa, play pool or enroll in language classes in Naples, cash a check or place a phone call in Toulon, or get directions and help in Yokota, U. S. service members and their dependents have found smiles and helping hands at more than 160 USO facilities around the world.

The USO -- a private agency serving American armed forces worldwide -- celebrates its golden anniversary on Feb. 4.

Founded during the early years of World War II at the request of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the USO was formed by a coalition of the Salvation Army, YMCA, YWCA, Catholic Community Services, Travelers' Aid Society and the National Jewish Welfare Board.

A 1974 report by United Way of America and the Department of Defense concluded that, "if there were no USO, another organization would have to be created... Isolation of the military from civilian influences is not, we believe, in the interest of this nation."

The USO has long been lauded for arranging big shows on board ship, behind front lines and at bases overseas.

Cultural considerations in the Persian Gulf have limited USO

programs to "handshake and autograph" meetings with small groups. Nevertheless, response to comedian Steve Martin's visit, as an example, was "overwhelmingly positive," said Kevin McCarthy, USO spokesman. "As long as the troops are there, it'll be show time," said McCarthy.

Besides entertainment shows, USO centers at 36 airports help military travelers with flight connections, language translations and long layovers. At 37 locations in the Mediterranean, Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean areas, USO fleet centers provide a range of services, such as hotel accommodations, affordable shopping and currency exchange.

USO family and community centers help military families settle in new surroundings by offering information on child care, employment opportunities, budgeting, nutrition and recreational and community facilities.

Army Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, offered his views on the agency: "Since its founding in 1941, the USO has a long and honored history of providing welcoming sanctuaries for men and women of the armed forces. Most times it is a touch of home, sometimes just a gesture of friendship and appreciation, but always a reservoir of understanding and support when our young people are asked to deal with the new challenges.

"USO programs remind all soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines around the globe that America has not forgotten and truly cares. I'm grateful to the USO for its contributions to the quality of military life."

Locality pay brightens civilian personnel horizons

By Tim Downey
American Forces Information Service

DoD civilians in Los Angeles, New York City and San Francisco rang in the new year with something extra in their paychecks: 8 percent raises. That's besides the across-the-board 4.1 percent pay raise that took effect in January.

Defense and other executive branch officials had long complained they couldn't compete against private-sector recruiters in those high-cost-of-living cities. Civilian workers even refused promotions to go work in these cities because the increased salary wouldn't have kept pace with the higher mortgages, rents and the like.

The Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 allows the president to hike pay rates up to 8 percent in areas where serious recruitment problems exist. California defense civilians working in Los Angeles, Anaheim, Riverside, San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose began receiving the geographic pay effective the first pay period in January. New York City, Long Island and northern New Jersey are the only East Coast areas similarly designated to draw the special pay. About 25,000 DoD civilians are affected.

The new law will impact a large chunk of the department's civilian work force. Locality comparability pay will become effective in 1994 in areas where there is a disparity of more than 5 percent. Simply put, federal civilians' pay should be comparable to that of private-sector and other public-sector peers, be they engineers, computer programmers, management analysts or secretaries. Exactly how adjustments will be made has to be ironed out over the next few years.

Other high-cost areas suggested for extra pay, but not adopted in 1991, included Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Honolulu, Philadelphia, San Diego and Washington, D.C.



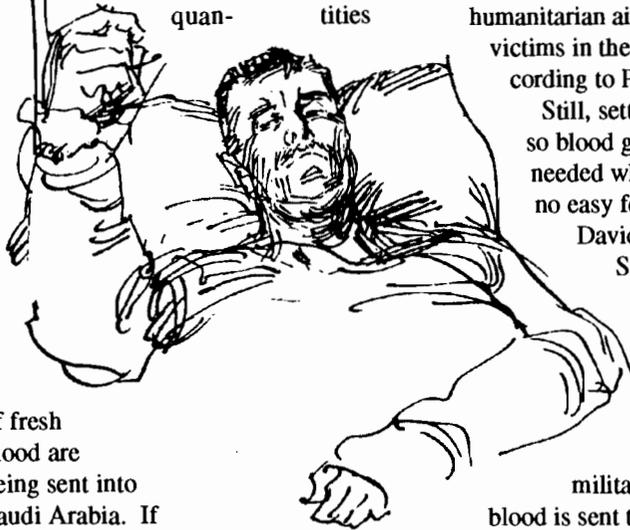
Blood donars needed for Desert Storm

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service

Should it be needed in Operation Desert Storm, the Armed Services Blood Program is ready.

Within days of the deployment of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf, the Army, Navy and Air Force set up a joint blood program office in the theater. Frozen blood is in place on the hospital ships *Mercy* and *Comfort* in

the Persian Gulf, and large quantities



of fresh blood are being sent into Saudi Arabia. If necessary, blood can be air-dropped to field units and ships at sea.

Officials think the program's in good shape at the moment, but they hope DoD people will help keep up supplies by responding generously when their military blood activity asks for donations.

"Because of new technology, no donated blood goes to waste any more," said Army Col. Anthony J. Polk, director of the Armed Services Blood Program Office. "Blood is perishable, and unfortunately, in Vietnam, we had to throw away thousands of units of blood because they expired. Now, we can freeze blood to extend its life. We can even rejuvenate fresh blood before it expires." Even expired blood has uses

in blood-substitute research, he added. Fresh blood is good for 35 days and frozen blood for more than 21 years.

Although no blood had been pre-positioned in the Middle East, planners were able to put a system into place quickly because the military since last year has been stockpiling frozen universal-donor Type O blood in strategic places. Also, blood program officials had recent practice providing large amounts of blood during Operation Just Cause in Panama and giving humanitarian aid to earthquake victims in the Philippines, according to Polk.

Still, setting up the system so blood gets where it's needed when it's needed is no easy feat. Navy Cmdr.

David Reichman, Desert Storm blood program coordinator, described the supply process: From donor centers on military installations,

blood is sent to the tri-service-staffed Armed Services Whole Blood Processing Laboratory at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., or its standby at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Processed blood is then shipped to centers in theater where it is re-iced and sent to units that supply medical treatment elements. Blood destined for Desert Storm travels more than 8,000 miles from a typical donor center to a treatment center in Saudi Arabia.

DoD civilians, service members and family members who want to support the Desert Storm blood program should contact their local military medical treatment center for more information or call the Armed Services Blood Program Office at Autovon 289-8011 or commercial 1-703-756-8011.

New rules restrict paid writing, speaking

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service

DoD and other federal government workers must observe new rules that may limit their paid, off-duty writing and speaking activities.

The rules, part of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, went into effect Jan. 1. Essentially, they prohibit active duty commissioned and warrant officers and all DoD civilians except "special government employees" from accepting honoraria for appearances, speeches and articles. Penalties can include fines up to \$10,000.

Under previous conduct rules governing honoraria, Uncle Sam allowed paid speaking and writing activities as long as they didn't depend on "inside information," present a conflict of interest, interfere with the employees' ability to do their government jobs, endanger national security, embarrass the government, require the use of government resources or involve selling to subordinates.

According to officials in DoD's General Counsel office, low and mid-level employees could still "moonlight" in such jobs as selling real estate and working as artists, illustrators, weekend photographers and store clerks.

The Office of Government Ethics, the agency that will issue executive branch regulations on this matter, expects to use definitions similar to those used by the Federal Election Commission. According to an Office of Government Ethics memorandum, these definitions are:

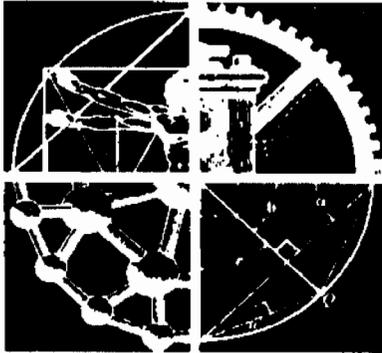
* "Appearance" means "attendance at a public or private conference, convention, meeting, social event or like gathering and the incidental

(Continued on page 18)



Fascinating facts about engineers and National Engineers Week

ENGINEERS



TURNING IDEAS
INTO REALITY

NATIONAL ENGINEERS
WEEK-FEBRUARY 17-23, 1991

National Engineers Week, which is always celebrated around George Washington's birthday, was established by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951. Our nation's first President was a military and agricultural engineer and a land surveyor. He founded the first U.S. engineering school at Valley Forge, Pennsyl-

vania, which later became the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

In 1989, the National Academy of Engineering announced its list of the top ten engineering achievements of the past 25 years. The top ten achievements listed are: the moon landing, application satellites, the microprocessor, computer-aided design and manufacturing, the CAT scan, advanced composite materials, the jumbo jet, lasers, fiberoptic communication, and genetically engineered products. (National Academy of Engineering)

According to the National Science Foundation, employment of engineers rose substantially from 1872 to 1986, increasing from almost 900,000 to over 2.2 million. However, it is projected that the number of science and engineering graduates will be unable to keep pace with an increasing demand through the 1990s. (National Science Foundation)

Over the next five years, the college-age population will decline, and accordingly, the supply of engineering graduates will likely also decline. That means placing greater

reliance on technicians, technologists, and others not educated as engineers, which may result in a diminution of quality and threaten the long-term international competitiveness of the United States. (National Research Council)

Of the 68,824 bachelor's degrees granted in engineering in 1989, fifteen percent went to women; three percent to blacks; and four percent to Hispanics. (NSF)

Although women represent over 45 percent of the total workforce (Statistical Abstract of the United States), they represent only three percent of the total engineering workforce. Women tend to concentrate in chemical and industrial engineering, and are less well represented in high-growth fields like electrical engineering. (NSF)

According to a survey conducted by the American Consulting Engineers Council in early 1989, lack of qualified personnel is the biggest concern of America's consulting engineers.

The states reporting the highest numbers of employed engineers are California, New York and Texas. The state reporting the smallest number is North Dakota. (NSF)

The median annual income professional engineers earn, as of January 1, 1990, is \$55,500, a 4.7 percent increase from the previous year. (National Society of Professional Engineers)

By metropolitan area, the highest median annual salaries, as of January 1, 1990, are in New York City (\$71,000), followed by San Jose and vicinity (\$68,000), San Francisco and vicinity (\$66,200), and Nassau/Suffolk counties (NY) and vicinity (\$66,000). (NSPE)

Engineers and scientists make up only four percent of America's workers, but their skills are central to the nation's competitiveness and the world's quality of life. (Office of Technology Assessment)

By the year 2000, white males will account for only 27 percent of the American workforce. Since the engineering profession has traditionally drawn most of its recruits from among white males, it will now have to attract greater numbers of women and minorities in order to meet the technological challenges ahead.



Did you know...?

It is estimated that some 35,000 robots are in use in the U.S. today. The year 1961 marked the debut of industrial robots in U.S. factories according to the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). The day is not far off when a brain surgeon will be able to rely on a robotic helper during surgery to position and focus a surgical instrument. (American Society of Mechanical Engineers)

Within a few years, dentists will be able to scan a patient's teeth with a laser, then have a computer automatically design and manufacture a replacement crown while the patient waits, according to ASME. The first laser, produced by Theodore Maiman, was built in 1960 using a solid rod of ruby. However, the concept of the laser had been proven theoretically feasible by Albert Einstein in 1917.

The engineering equivalent of the Nobel Prize is the Charles Stark Draper Prize, which is presented by the National Academy of Engineering. The Draper Prize is awarded every two years and recognizes outstanding achievement in engineering and technology. The 1990 award, which was presented to Robert Noyce and Jack Kilby for their independent coinvention of the microchip, consisted of a certificate, a gold medal and an honorarium of \$350,000 endowed by the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts. (National Academy of Engineering)

Next to teaching, engineering has the largest number of professional practitioners and electrical engineering encompasses the largest number of engineers. (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)

U.S. corporations spend \$210 billion on all forms of training each year. That's more than the budget for the nation's entire elementary, secondary and higher education systems (American Consulting Engineers Council)

According to the National Engineers Week committee's survey on life in the 22nd Century, artificial body parts will become "off-the-shelf" items to be purchased as needed; we will inhabit the Moon and manmade planets, but not Mars or any other planets; we will not control the earth's weather and our most critical environmental problems will be hazardous waste disposal, lack of natural resources, clean air and water shortages; nearly one-third of all respondents believe that new communications techniques will make newspapers obsolete.

A medical marvel, the pacemaker, was made possible by an engineer. In 1960 Wilson Greatbatch, P.E. used high performance plastics, metals and electronics to produce the first implantable heart pacemaker. (NSPE)

Numerically controlled (NC) machines and computer-aided design (CAD) are the two advanced technologies most widely used in American industry today. John T. Parsons of Traverse City, Michigan, is credited with developing the concept of numerical control in 1948. Automotive design by computer became a reality in 1964 when General Motors began using one of the world's first man-computer design facilities, developed in collaboration with IBM.

American manufacturing started in 1643 in Lynn, Massachusetts, with the casting of a one-quart iron pot by Joseph Jenks, a metal working craftsman. Later Jenks made the dies for the first coins minted in the colonies. (SME)

By the year 2000, manufacturing engineers will have to be familiar with at least twice as many technologies as they know today, according to the Profile 21 survey of SME. Also most manufacturing engineers of the 21st century will work in teams rather than individually.

"Automation" is a well-used word in engineering. Delmar S. Harder, a Ford manufacturing executive, originated the word "automation" in 1946 to describe the mechanical handling of engine blocks between machines.

The United States ranks fifty-fifth in the world in capital investment in infrastructure. (Rebuild America)

Capital spending has dropped from 2.3 percent of GNP in 1960 to 1.1 percent today. (National Council on Public Improvement)

Forty-two percent of the nation's estimated 575,607 bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. (Rebuild American - Federal Highway Administration) There is one bridge collapse every two days. (Rebuild America)

From 1980 to 1988, traffic growth has increased at an average rate of five percent annually. By the year 2005, U.S. highway travel is expected to top three trillion vehicles. In thirty years total travel is expected to double.

Each man, woman and child contributes an average of 1300 pounds a year to the growing mountain of garbage. (Rebuild America)



Retiree Review

The January luncheon was, to put the best face on it, an intimate gathering: Small, but cozy. Only 21 people attended, the smallest number on record. Quite a come down from the 63 in December. We assume that numerous snowbirds were off to warmer climes, but word was scarce.

Elmer Huizenga was absent and he is our main source of reports about the snowbirds. Elmer is recovering from knee surgery. By phone, he said he is getting around the house pretty well, with cane and walker, but not quite ready to get out and about.

Howard Beinke was, as nearly always, the senior retiree present. Kate Stiles and Roger Cuddeback both continued their unbroken attendance records (31 and 40 months, respectively).

No one showed up to represent the District. We heard, later, that security problems at the RAY Building (anti-war demonstrators) prevented anyone leaving. Shades of the '60s!

But, despite the small crowd, it was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. Instead of our usual long tables, seating was in small groups around tables scattered about the room. Conversation was general and animated.

A major subject of conversation was the late and very much lamented Ulas Wilson. Ulas was know, liked and respected by everyone there. He will be missed by all.

Not surprisingly, the Persian Gulf War was also a major topic. The amazing weapons technology displayed by our Armed Forces was discussed at some length (two of our retirees have some background in that field).

We were pleased to learn that the management of the Salad Bowl is setting aside all income from coffee sales, to be donated to a fund for assistance to the families of Desert Storm personnel. There is a display of yellow ribbons in the main dining room and customers are encouraged to put the names of their friends and loved ones on the ribbons.

Elmer Huizenga was also talked about, but those comments have no place in a family publication -- well, it's for the Corps Family, isn't it?

We are certainly hoping for a bigger turnout for the February luncheon. It will be held, as usual, on the Third Thursday -- February 21 (as late in the month as it can be).

Come and join us at the Salad Bowl!

Condolences

Warren See, long-time friend of the Corp and president of the Cannon Dam and Mark Twain Lake Area Development Association for 27 years, passed away January 5, 1991. He received the Commander's Award from the District for his work.

Herman Tilton passed away on December 29, 1990. Herm retired from the Planning Division in 1986.

New rules (cont.)

conversation and remarks made at that time."

* "Speech" means "an address, oration or other form of oral presentation, regardless of whether presented in person, recorded or broadcast over the media."

* "Article" means "a writing other than a book, which has been or is intended to be published."

The ban does not affect works of fiction nor does it affect teaching and entertainment such as appearing in a play or performing in a band.

The memorandum says compensation is acceptable "for goods and services other than appearing, speaking or writing, even though making a speech or appearance or writing an article may be an incidental task associated with provision of the goods or services." Therefore, an employee or officer who writes a novel can be paid even if part of the money is for appearing on talk shows or promotional tours.

Reimbursements are allowed for "actual and necessary travel expenses" related to speeches, appearances or articles. Charitable donations made in the employee's name are allowed but can't exceed \$2,000. Employees and members of their immediate families cannot receive any special benefits from the charity or claim the donation as a tax deduction.

According to Office of Government Ethics guidance, employees may accept:

*Meals and other incidentals such as the waiving of fees for attendance or course materials for the event at which the employee is taking part;

* Copies of publications containing articles, tapes and similar items providing a record of the appearance, speech or article;

* Awards for artistic, literary or oratorical achievement made on a competitive basis under established criteria;

*Certain witness fees; and

* Pay for any appearance or speech made or article accepted for publication before Jan. 1, 1991, or for any speech, appearance or article completed in satisfaction of the employee's obligation under a contract entered into before Jan. 1, 1991.



To your health

Varicose Veins: Prevention and treatment

Gravity helps blood to reach its destination in our legs and feet. That makes an easy trip down, but the return trip to the heart is much more difficult and complicated.

Veins rely on skeletal muscles to push blood through our veins. Valves allow blood to flow only in one direction - up. If the valves fail to work properly, some blood is not pushed ahead. It may even go backward and pool in one spot. The result is a swollen blood vessel or varicose vein.

Women are more likely to develop the condition than men are. People of Irish and German descent seem to have a higher likelihood of developing varicosities. And a sedentary lifestyle with lack of exercise contributes by stifling the pumping action of the muscles.

To prevent varicosities, avoid standing or sitting for long periods. Take a break and walk around. Keep excess pounds off and avoid heavy

lifting. Put your feet above hip level periodically to facilitate blood flow out of the veins and back to the heart. Avoid smoking and get regular aerobic exercise.

In most cases, an affected vein looks unattractive, but causes little trouble. If it gets too big, it can create dull pain and itching. Advanced cases, usually in older people, have been known to cause skin ulcers or blood clots in the vein. Such clots rarely, if ever, travel to the heart or lungs.

There are two methods of treating varicose veins, surgery and sclerotherapy. Today, surgery is often done on an outpatient basis. A branch of the main saphenous vein on the inside of the thigh and calf is disconnected, reducing blood flow to the affected veins.

In sclerotherapy a chemical solution is injected into the affected veins. As the cells lining the vein are killed by the solution, the vein collapses and will no longer carry blood.

AIDS cases among women

The U.S. Centers for disease control has predicted that AIDS will be among the top five killers of women of child-bearing age in 1991. The increase is confirmed by the World Health Organization which estimates that cases world-wide will equal the number of cases among men by the end of this decade.

The situation is of even greater concern because women are having babies who are infected with the virus. In Florida, for example, a recent study found that one out of every 220 mothers giving birth test HIV-positive.

Because of the incubation period

(about five years), many women don't know they have the disease when they decide to have a child.

Experts at CDC say one reason cases are increasing more among women is because gay men are taking precautions. Many poor women are not. They are trading sex for drugs and increasing their chances of acquiring the disease.

AIDS cases increased 29 percent among women in 1990 as compared with an 18 percent increase among men.

Five-year contraceptive approved

In December the U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave its stamp of approval to a major new method of birth control.

The device, called Norplant, consists of six silicone rubber rods about 1 1/3 inches long. They are inserted in a fan-like arrangement under the skin of the inner arm above the elbow. Insertion can be done with local anesthetic in a doctor's office.

Norplant contains a hormone that is released slowly over five years. It can be removed at any time and fertility is restored.

Tests show the implant to be 99 percent effective for women weighing less than 150 pounds, but somewhat less effective in heavier women, says the Population Council of New York which developed the new method. It will be marketed by Wyeth-Laboratories of Philadelphia and should be available after February 1991.

The Population Council estimates the cost of the device and associated medical services to be between \$200 and \$300.

Of women participating in extended testing of Norplant, some 15 percent later had the device removed because of complications. Side effects may include menstrual irregularities, longer periods and spotting. Other side effects reported by some test subjects were occasional headache, mood changes, nausea and acne.

Happy Valentine's Day

Though the true origin of Valentine's Day is lost in myth and legend, historians say that expressions of love have been exchanged on February 14 for hundreds of years.

The hand-made paper Valentine dates from the 16th century. By 1800, individually painted copper-plates were produced to meet large demands. These were followed by woodcuts and lithographs.

St. Valentine is the name given to two legendary Christian martyrs who lost their lives in the third century. One was a Roman priest and physician. The other was bishop of Terni, Italy. One legend holds that a saint fell in love with his jailer's daughter. Before his execution, the martyr sent a farewell letter to her, signed "Your Valentine."

Some say the tradition of sending messages of love originated with Lupercalia on February 15. The ancient

Roman festival was a time when young men drew women's names from a box to be their sweethearts for the day or the year.

In medieval England people said that birds mated on Valentine's Day, and that it was the day for people in love too.

Today, school children everywhere celebrate the day by exchanging cards with classmates. Adults often send flowers, candy and greetings to their mates or sweethearts.

It's a fine day for those who want to show their love. And it's a great time of the year for the marketers of the flowers, candy, cards and other gifts.

