



South Pacific Division commander visits Los Angeles District projects, people

NewsCastle Editorial Staff

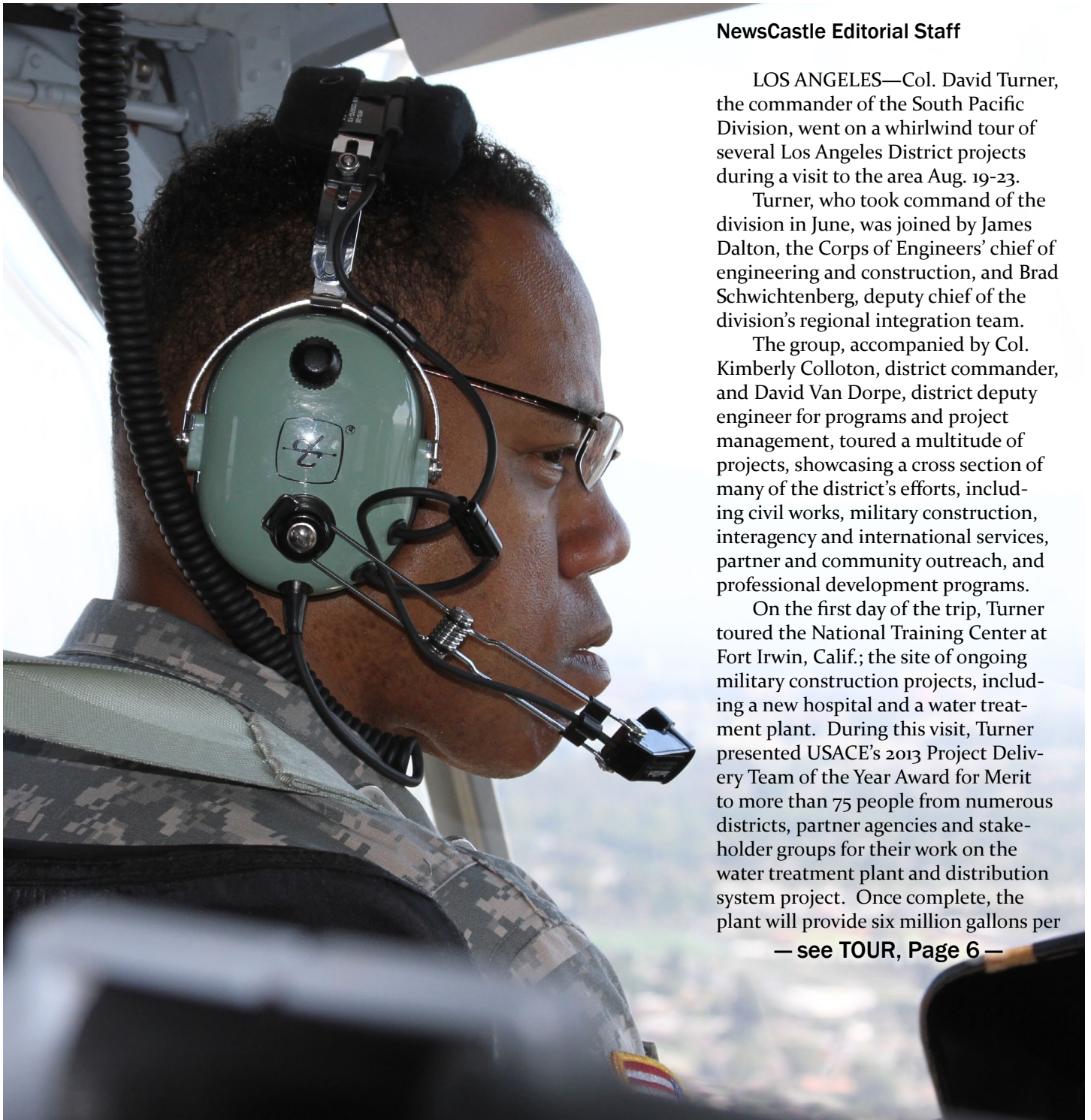
LOS ANGELES—Col. David Turner, the commander of the South Pacific Division, went on a whirlwind tour of several Los Angeles District projects during a visit to the area Aug. 19-23.

Turner, who took command of the division in June, was joined by James Dalton, the Corps of Engineers' chief of engineering and construction, and Brad Schwichtenberg, deputy chief of the division's regional integration team.

The group, accompanied by Col. Kimberly Colloton, district commander, and David Van Dorpe, district deputy engineer for programs and project management, toured a multitude of projects, showcasing a cross section of many of the district's efforts, including civil works, military construction, interagency and international services, partner and community outreach, and professional development programs.

On the first day of the trip, Turner toured the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.; the site of ongoing military construction projects, including a new hospital and a water treatment plant. During this visit, Turner presented USACE's 2013 Project Delivery Team of the Year Award for Merit to more than 75 people from numerous districts, partner agencies and stakeholder groups for their work on the water treatment plant and distribution system project. Once complete, the plant will provide six million gallons per

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(From left to right) Lt. Col. Phil Acquaro, 42nd Electronic Combat Squadron commander; Michele Mickle, quality assurance representative in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District’s Tucson Resident Office; Tony Gomez, 355th Civil Engineer Squadron lead architect; and Andrew Erquiaga, RSCI Group construction team lead, toss ceremonial shovels of dirt for the new EC-130H Simulator Training Operations Facility during a groundbreaking ceremony held Aug. 15 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. When it is complete in August 2014, the new facility will provide space for a new EC-130H flight deck simulator, a new EC-130H mission crew simulator and one relocated EC-130H mission crew simulator among its many benefits. (Photo by Daniel J. Calderon)

Los Angeles District breaks ground for new project on Davis-Monthan AFB

Daniel J. Calderón

DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB, Ariz.—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District joined with officials and contractors at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson Aug. 15 to break ground for the EC-130H Simulator and Operations facility.

According to Michele Mickle, the District’s quality assurance representative for the project who works at the Tucson Resident Office, the facility will provide space for the new EC-130H flight deck simulator, new EC-130H mission crew simulator and one relocated EC-130H mission crew simulator among its many benefits. The project includes demolition, grading, parking, support

utilities, landscaping, and finish work.

“I’m very thrilled to be a part of this project,” Mickle said. “I really enjoy what I do and even more so since I know what this project is for and how it positively affects the big picture here.”

The \$78 Million facility will provide space for the 42nd Electronic Combat Squadron to conduct training for airmen from around the country. More than 200 airmen will graduate from the training each year. The facility will serve as a home training area so airmen will not have to travel around the nation to receive different phases of training.

“It’s tremendous to see this five-year vision turning into reality,” said Lt. Col. Phil Acquaro, 42nd Electronic Combat Squadron commander. “This would not

have been possible without the support of the command. I also want to thank the base civil engineers and the Corps of Engineers.”

Tony Gomez, 355th Civil Engineer Squadron lead architect, said the facility will help with the Air Force’s goal of reducing its overall “footprint” by 20 percent since the new complex consolidates training from around the base and around the country.

“This will be a one-stop shop for us to train mission-ready Airmen,” said Acquaro.

Mickle said the facility is due for completion in August 2014.

“These Airmen need this facility,” Mickle said, “and I’m proud to be a part of the team that gets it for them.

District teammates:

It came as great news when we heard that the Department of Defense civilian furloughs were to be curtailed for this fiscal year. Since July, I’ve been exceptionally moved by the dedication and professionalism of the Los Angeles District workforce and, particularly, by the commitment of those employees affected by furlough who endured considerable stress and personal financial hardship. Although future fiscal impacts on the Army and greater government are uncertain, I know the employees in this district, and likely across the Corps, will meet challenges head on and muster the strength and perseverance necessary to continue doing the important work we do in support of the Nation. I want to sincerely thank you for your sacrifice.

Speaking of the future, I’d like to focus this column on two topics associated with one of the Corps’ Campaign Plan goals — “Prepare for Tomorrow.” The two topics are sustainability and STEM. I’ve noticed that sustainability means different things to different people, but for the Corps it is an umbrella concept that encompasses energy, climate change and the environment to help ensure that what we do today doesn’t negatively impact tomorrow. The Corps is working to incorporate sustainability in all that we do (civil works, operations and maintenance, military missions and research and development), and we are making smart investments for the future, saving taxpayer dollars and working in collaboration with other federal agencies and our partners.

A few examples of how we are making sustainable improvements here in the Los Angeles District include completing additional solar security lighting at our Encino facility and installing new energy-efficient heating and air conditioning systems at the El Monte baseyard, as well as energy efficient windows and LED lighting in all baseyard buildings.

Sustainability is vitally important! As a matter of fact, USACE kicked off a national outreach campaign in April that focused on sustainability to showcase the environmentally,



economically and socially sustainable projects and activities that are helping the Army and the Nation. You may have seen some of the video news releases, articles, and social media updates that were meant to increase public understanding of USACE activities, especially those that help protect and improve the natural and man-made environment and provide solutions to the environmental and sustainability challenges the Nation faces. They really showcased USACE sustainability in action. If you want to see more, click here: <http://ow.ly/oqGGs>.

Interestingly, when thinking about sustainability we can’t forget the human component, because the Corps will need employees with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and math if we want to shape the future.

Something interesting in the STEM arena is eCYBERMISSION, which is a contest that was launched 11 years ago by the Army Educational Outreach Program. We have an eCYBERMISSION ambassador, Ms. Sonya Trammell-Jones, right here in the District. Ambassadors like Sonya conduct outreach about the contest in underserved communities and to non-traditional education students. For example, she has started to form a relationship with the teachers and students in the science department at Compton High School.

The eCYBERMISSION contest challenges teams of students to choose a project from one of the following mission challenges: alternative sources of energy; environment; forces and motion; national security and safety; robotics; technology; and food, health and fitness. It encourages students to build on their ideas that have potential to positively affect their community, which really reinforces the importance of STEM and stimulates the critical thinking that is required of employees employed by the Corps. To learn more, go to: <https://www.ecybermission.com>.

We are now entering one of the busiest times of the year...end of year closeout. It will be very important for us to work as a team and communicate often in order to make it through this historically crazy, hectic fourth quarter. Thanks for all that you do. I’m proud to be on this team, and I’m proud of all of your efforts to continue BUILDING STRONG! Finish strong! Essayons!

COL C.

District Commander: Col. Kimberly Colloton, PMP	The NewsCastle is published monthly under the provisions of AR 360-1 for the employees and extended Engineer Family of the Los Angeles District, USACE.
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Editor: David A. Salazar	Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the District or of the Department of Defense.
Staff: Daniel J. Calderón, Greg Fuderer, Brooks O. Hubbard IV, Beverly Patterson, Kristen Skopeck and Mario Zepeda	Address mail to the Los Angeles District Public Affairs Office, ATTN: NewsCastle Editor P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, CA 90017-2325
Tel: (213) 452-3922 or Fax: (213) 452-4209.	E-mail the Public Affairs staff at: publicaffairs.SPL@usace.army.mil



Commander and Los Angeles District Engineer Col. Kim Colloton gave the keynote address and met members of the Society of American Military Engineers Los Angeles Post during a luncheon Aug. 6. (Photo illustration by Kristen Skopec)

Commander, Society of American Military Engineers LA Chapter members introduced at meeting

Kristen Skopec

LOS ANGELES — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Commander and District Engineer Col. Kim Colloton gave the keynote address and met members of the Society of American Military Engineers Los Angeles Post during a luncheon at The Proud Bird Aug. 6.

Colloton, a certified Project Management Professional, became the 60th commander and first female commander of the district in July. She leads 844 military and civilian personnel operating throughout 226,000 square miles of California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah and is responsible for an annual budget of nearly \$1 billion for planning, engineering, construction, asset management, regulatory, emergency management, and environmental services. The district oversees construction projects for three Army and eight Air Force installations and interagency and international customers, as well as operates and maintains much of the nation's civil water resources infrastructure in the Southwest.

"I've been involved in SAME activities since I was a lieutenant," Colloton said. "Nearly everywhere I've worked has had a SAME post to plug into, and I was the president of the Albuquerque Post for a year."

In June, Colloton graduated from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. Her most recent operational assignment was at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., where she served as the I Corps (Rear) Engineer Staff director until July 2012 and, prior to that, as the 555th Engineer Brigade deputy commander from July 2010 until October 2011. Additionally, she was the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District from July 2008 to July 2010.

Colloton told the group how lucky she felt to be part of the Los Angeles District again, explaining that she had been assigned to the district while she was a captain and a major. She talked about how her assignments have rotated between tactical units and engineer districts and how she has enjoyed every aspect of both, from operating construction equipment to working with project partners to getting projects completed. She also emphasized the importance of SAME's role in supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, or STEM, initiatives, since SAME members can directly relate to the value of inspiring today's youth to pursue STEM careers.

"To me, the 'S' in SAME stands for synergy," Colloton said. "We can't do it alone! It takes interagency collaboration and partnerships to ensure projects are successful. I'm so happy to be here, and I look forward to working with you."

The type of projects performed by the district include reducing the risk of flood damage along the Santa Ana River Mainstem, such as the modification of Prado Dam in Corona, and other waterways; environmental restoration projects such as the revitalization of the Los Angeles River; shoreline restoration and protection projects from Morro Bay to the border with Mexico; maintenance of navigation channels at more than a dozen commercial and recreational harbors along the California coast, among them the massive ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which together represent 40 percent of all U.S. trade by volume; and military construction projects, like building family housing, barracks and operations facilities. The District also provides engineering design and construction support to agencies such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the International Boundary and Water Commission, among others.

Cadets complete district internship

David A. Salazar

LOS ANGELES—Two future Army officers took advantage of a rare opportunity to gain first-hand experience of the inner-workings of the Corps of Engineers as part of a summer internship program, which they each successfully completed Aug. 8.

Cadet Chris Lillie, a junior in the University of Notre Dame's Reserve Officer's Training Corps program, and Cadet Mackenzie Vaughn, a senior at the U.S. Military Academy, were each selected to participate in the three week long program, which allows them to work alongside district subject matter experts. Lillie and Vaughn were assigned to work in the district's Interagency and International Support Division.

As part of the program, each cadet was assigned a specific functional area to assess and streamline. Lillie, a 20-year-old native of Rochester, Mich., was assigned to develop a template to facilitate project management continuity. Vaughn, 23, of Olalla, Wash., was assigned the task of making recommendations for streamlining the district's data management. Their findings were presented to engineer officers assigned to the district and civilian leaders on the final day of their internship.

Ken Morris, assistant deputy engineer of the district's Programs and Project Management Division, lauded their efforts and recognized them for being selected for the internship.

"I think you both had a chance to do something incredible. Most don't get a chance to do this," Morris said. "You guys are going to be our future. You'll be carrying on the banner. So I think it's important that you are able to apply what you've learned here, because you



Cadet Mackenzie Vaughn, left, a senior at the U.S. Military Academy, and Cadet Chris Lillie, a junior with the University of Notre Dame's Reserve Officer's Training Corps program, completed a three-week-long internship with the Los Angeles District Aug. 8. The two shadowed engineer officers and district civilian professionals through a myriad of projects in order to gain experience and expose them to the inner workings of the Corps, its mission, and impact on society. (Photo by David A. Salazar)

will take on the mantle of leadership one day and take us even further than where we are right now."

Lillie and Vaughn also visited several of the district's ongoing projects, including military construction projects at Fort Irwin, civil works efforts at Prado Dam, and construction at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Los Angeles. Working with project managers, the cadets were able to see a cross-section of the many services the Corps provides.

"I learned a lot about the dynamics of the Corps because it's so different from the way the regular Army works," Lillie said. "I actually got to learn a lot about being an Army officer, especially in engineering, because I got to spend a lot of time with some officers out here

and they really gave me some great perspective."

Vaughn said the experience she gained from the internship was invaluable.

"You need to have a very high level of communication between all the groups involved for everything to come together to be able to finish a project and that's definitely something I'm taking back with me to West Point," Vaughn said. "Relationship skills are definitely a huge part of the job. I don't think that can be understated enough."

Lillie and Vaughn left the bright lights of Los Angeles and headed back to their respective programs to complete their education and receive their commissions.

— WHEN YOU MAY HAVE ENCOUNTERED A MUNITION.

— DO NOT TOUCH, MOVE OR DISTURB IT, BUT CAREFULLY LEAVE THE AREA.

— CALL 911!



From left to right: David Van Dorpe, the deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management, explains the district's involvement in numerous projects seen during an aerial tour Aug. 21. Turner and district leaders tour Whittier Narrows Dam; James Dalton, the chief of engineering and construction for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, discusses California's approach to water conservation during the group's trip to Prado Dam in Corona, Calif., Aug. 21. Robert Klein, the district's Veteran's Affairs Program manager, greets Turner and Col. Kimberly Colloton, the district commander, at the site of the ongoing construction project at the VA hospital in Long Beach, Calif., Aug. 23. Dr. Lorenita Holloway, the science department chair at Compton High School, gives Turner and Colloton an overview of the school's partnership with the district through various outreach efforts Aug. 23. (Photos by David A. Salazar) Turner receives a tour of a segment of the Los Angeles River from the Tawny Tran, the project manager for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Aug. 22. (Photo by Kristen Skopeck) Justin Gay, the project manager for the district's water treatment plant project at Fort Irwin and the National Training Center, and Harold Hartman, the area engineer at the district's High Desert Area Office, brief Turner and Colloton on the status of the project at Fort Irwin Aug. 20. (Photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV)

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day to soldiers and families living and working on the sprawling post.

On Aug. 21, Turner, Dalton, Schwichtenberg, and district leadership took an aerial tour of various civil works project sites, including the recently completed channel deepening at the Port of Los Angeles as well as other dredging projects in Marina Del Rey, Newport Harbor, and Upper Newport Bay.

As part of this helicopter tour, the group stopped at Prado Dam in Corona, Calif., to discuss modifications that will allow the dam to increase its maximum outlet capacity from 10,000 cubic feet per second to 30,000 cubic feet per second. Several of the modifications to the dam, its basin, and the Santa Ana River downstream are complete, with

the remainder underway or scheduled for future construction.

Work completed thus far includes raising the dam embankment by 28 feet, rebuilding the outlet works and outlet channel, and constructing three of five dikes in the basin that will protect critical infrastructure and other facilities.

Atop the dam at the control tower, Dalton talked about the value of the tour and how it helped shape his views of how the Corps conducts business in different parts of the country.

"To be able to look at our projects is extremely helpful in understanding their challenges and issues, and where I can help," Dalton said. "Seeing it on paper is one thing, seeing it in person makes it much easier to understand."

After touring the sites, Dalton, Turner and Colloton returned to the Santa Ana Dams Resident Office to

speak with the staff. Next, the group was whisked off to district's El Monte office, where Turner received an informational brief on the Los Angeles County Drainage Area and the Corps' responsibility in operating and maintaining a number of dams and flood control channels that comprise the system. The group received a brief tour of Whittier Narrows Dam before boarding the helicopter for an aerial overview of segments of the Los Angeles River, where the district conducted a study to develop ways to restore the ecosystem in certain areas.

The third day of Turner's visit, he met with directors of seven county flood control offices at the district headquarters. The meeting facilitated a discussion on the individual needs of each office and how the Corps can better address some of their concerns, including more aligned communication

for joint efforts. Turner also had lunch with participants in the district's Leadership Development Program.

Turner hosted a town hall meeting for district personnel, where he talked about his leadership philosophy and broader efforts at the division to make better use of resources among the districts. Turner, Dalton, Schwichtenberg, and key district leaders ended the day's events with a tour of segments of the Los Angeles Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study project with stops at Verdugo Wash, North Atwater Park, Taylor Yard, Arroyo Seco, and the Piggyback Yard. The study focuses on an 11-mile stretch of the river in the nation's second largest urban region and, therefore, has the ability to positively impact millions of people who live in close proximity to its boundaries. The study aims to restore ecological value and habitat to the Los Angeles River

corridor.

The following day, Turner toured the site of the Veteran's Affairs hospital in Long Beach, Calif., where the district is leading construction efforts for a new building and installing emergency power generators. Turner also visited with the principal of Compton High School, where the district is leading outreach efforts to bolster the school's capability to bring science, technology, engineering, and math to the school. Turner and Colloton met with the science department chair, Dr. Lorenita Holloway, science department educators, and members of Heal the Bay, a non-profit organization working with the school on a project at Compton Creek. This meeting helped demonstrate to Turner the breadth of the district's outreach efforts and the efforts made to partner with multiple organizations to accomplish shared goals.

"This has been interesting and worthwhile," Turner said of his visit. "It's great to be able to 'pull the covers back' and look at ourselves and see how we can improve efficiencies across the region."

Colloton discussed the importance of the visit and how it contributes to vertical alignment among the various hierarchies within USACE.

"At the district level, it's important to stay connected to the philosophies at division and at headquarters," Colloton said. "It's also important they understand the constraints we face on the ground. Meetings like this are a great opportunity for us all, because we can't have success without the synergy that results from collaborating at all levels."

Editor's note: This article is composed of reports from Greg Fuderer, Brooks O. Hubbard IV, Kristen Skopeck, and David Salazar.

District prepares for next round of FUDS cleanup in Kingman

Daniel J. Calderón

KINGMAN, Ariz. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District held a public meeting Aug. 20 in Kingman, Ariz., to discuss upcoming time-critical removal action work at the site of the former Kingman Ground-to-Ground Gunnery Range.

This is “round two” for the district. Contractors worked in the spring to clean up ten properties of soil which was contaminated with chemicals known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. The contaminants were leftover from the clay pigeon debris strewn across the ground when the area was used as a skeet range during WW II.

World War II-era clay pigeons were constructed with coal tar pitch which contains the PAHs. Skeet remnants, or the debris from these particular clay targets, remain in the area. During the upcoming round of clean ups, the Corps and the contractor will “abate, prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release” of contaminants according to 40 Code of Federal Regulations 300.415(b) (1) on up to 42 properties.

“We will be taking the contaminated soil out and replacing it with clean soil,” said Fran Firouzi, the district’s project manager. “We’re hoping to get started on the next phase in mid-to late-September.”

Once the project begins, the district will work the properties in phases. If all goes according to plan, the district will complete two phases before taking a break for the holidays and complete the rest of the properties in early 2014.

During the “construction” phase, the district and its contractor will remove all of the landscaping, rocks and similarly mobile items to store them in a secure location. The district will provide relocation assistance for residents and their pets since they will not be allowed back on to their properties once the work begins.



Fran Firouzi, a project manager for the Los Angeles District, talks with a member of the public at an informational meeting held Aug. 20 at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles meeting facility in Kingman, Ariz., about the upcoming time-critical removal action work at the site of the former Kingman Ground-to-Ground Gunnery Range. The work at the site will “abate, prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release” of contaminants according to 40 Code of Federal Regulations 300.415(b) (1) at up to 42 properties in the area in addition to the ten properties already completed. (Photo by Daniel J. Calderon)

Work on the properties should take three to four weeks.

Once the district completes removal of up to two feet of soil and replacement with clean soil, the contractors will return the removed items, unless the owner or resident asks for the items to remain off the property. Once the owners or residents certify the property is acceptable, they return to their residence.

“The Corps of Engineers is here to take care of the people in these communities,” Firouzi said. “The first phase of the project went well and we’re looking forward to the next phases. This work will mitigate the risk to the health of the residents here.”

The district will maintain documents and reports related to the work being done in the area at the Mohave County Library.

Tool improves Corps disaster response time

David A. Salazar

LOS ANGELES—In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy ravaged the northeastern United States, causing billions of dollars in damage to the area.

Task Force Power, the Corps’ rapid response team charged with providing emergency power to critical infrastructure during a disaster, installed 202 generators provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, ultimately providing 54 MW of power and directly supporting 25,000 people.

But the support rendered was not without its challenges. Every facility supported had specialized power needs and specific connection requirements that required hours and sometimes days to accommodate.

“This is not a one-size-fits-all situation where we rolled up with 75 generators in the back of a van and started dropping the off and hooking them up,” said Jim Balocki, chief of the Interagency and International Services division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “Every one of the generators had to be specially matched and connected to safely provide temporary power. Because it’s custom made, it takes a bit longer than what people expect and want, but it’s for the safety of the people living and working in the facility.”

These delays could have been avoided and Los Angeles-area facilities could learn from these events to better prepare themselves in the event a natural disaster hits Southern California, said Anne Hutton, chief of the Los Angeles District’s emergency management office.

The Corps has a system in place for critical facilities like emergency operations centers, hospitals, police and fire departments, and others to register and indicate their specialized power requirements should the need ever arise. It’s called the Emergency Power Facility Assessment Tool.

The EPFAT is a database that is secure and stores information on the specific needs of each facility. It also allows responders to prioritize the needs of each facility and gives the 249th Engineer Battalion, also known as “Prime Power,” an idea of how many generators they need to arrange for and transport to the area. Those agencies who do not register in EPFAT run the risk of waiting additional hours or even days for emergency power should the need arise.

“Delays in providing resources can be avoided if we know the requirements of a facility prior to a disaster,” Hutton said. “Also, the cache may not have a generator that meets the needs of all facility types. For example, a port may need a specialized generator that is not in FEMA’s cache. If the 249th knows this ahead of time, they can identify where they might get these specialized assets. If this doesn’t happen, we have to send a team out to assess the needs like figuring out how and where to connect it and how much power is needed. If we have the information ahead of time, we already know where it’s going to go, where the connections are, and what level of power they need.”

Hutton oversees the district’s emergency management office, which plans for and responds to disasters in the dis-



Staff Sgt. Henry Howell and Sgt. Nathaniel Boecker of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 249th Engineer Battalion, inspect generators at the Ocean Bay Public Housing complex. The 249th installed over 200 generators, providing 54 MW of emergency temporary power to critical infrastructure after Hurricane Sandy pummeled the northeastern United States in October 2012. (Photo by Brooks O. Hubbard IV)

trict’s area of operations on behalf of the Corps. She’s also in charge of making sure facilities like hospitals and other emergency response organizations are aware of the myriad of services the Corps is poised to support with in the event of an emergency.

The district covers the southern third of California, as well as Arizona, Nevada, and parts of Utah, which could account for thousands of critical facilities that would benefit from enrolling in EPFAT. To date, only a fraction of those agencies have registered, and Hutton said it may be because they don’t anticipate they will need the support or because they already have emergency power plans in place. But because enrollment in EPFAT is free, it behooves the organizations to register anyway.

“Even if they have an emergency generator, it may not function at the time of the event even if it has been maintained,” Hutton said. Enrollment in EPFAT is free, and the Corps hopes all agencies or facilities that may require emergency power will take the time to register.

Emergency responders and representatives of critical facilities can register at <http://epfat.swf.usace.army.mil/>.

CHP uses district asset to train with new patrol car

David A. Salazar

LOS ANGELES—Plainclothes highway patrolmen descended upon the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin's spillway Aug. 16, but they weren't responding to the scene of an accident. They were training on the use of the California Highway Patrol's newest vehicles.

More than 20 patrolmen, trainers, and volunteers participated in the training, which saw them test the brand new Ford Police Interceptor Utility model, which is being phased in to replace the force's aging fleet of iconic white-and-

black Crown Victorias.

The unlikely training site resulted from a combination of the scarcity of open land in the heavily populated city and the flexibility of the Los Angeles District's Asset Management Division.

"They accommodated us well and they were very easy to work with," said CHP Sgt. Fernando Martinez, the supervisor for the West Valley office in Woodland Hills, Calif., who worked with the district to secure a permit for the site. "This location is perfect because it's such a big flat area, where we can do everything we need to. It's hard

to find a place like this in Los Angeles."

Trainers set up orange traffic cones in a variety of patterns to act as obstacles as trainees practiced backing up, parallel parking, and testing some of the vehicle's features, which include all-wheel drive, an improved anti-lock braking system, and steering stabilization. This necessitated a large, hard surface, in an area devoid of vehicle and pedestrian traffic that allowed training patrolmen to reach sufficient speeds. The newer model—the first sport utility vehicle used by the CHP as its normal patrol car—is also a half ton heavier

than the Crown Victoria, which Ford stopped manufacturing in 2011. The vehicle is a custom hybrid which combines a chassis similar to that of a Ford Taurus with the body of a Ford Explorer.

"This is a perfect partnership for the CHP. There's really nowhere else in LA that gives them the ability to train at the speeds in which they need to train safely and in a restricted location," said Al Moreno, a real estate specialist with the district's Asset Management Division. Moreno facilitated the CHP office's permit request for use of the spillway for the training.

Sepulveda Dam is a flood risk reduction project located in the south-central portion of the San Fernando Valley and lies across the Los Angeles River. In addition to its primary purpose of flood risk reduction, Sepulveda Dam provides recreation, agriculture and wildlife mitigation benefits. Sepulveda Dam regulates flows on the Los Angeles River and is designed to reduce the risk of flooding along the river below the dam. It forms part of the system of flood risk reduction structures located on the San Gabriel and the Los Angeles Rivers and their tributaries,

which are collectively known as the Los Angeles County Drainage Area.

Sepulveda Dam consists of an earth-filled embankment with a re-inforced concrete gated spillway and gated outlet works. Construction of the dam was completed in December 1941.

The district's Asset Management Division manages operations and maintenance requirements for 16 dams, debris basins, 54 channels, and portions of the Los Angeles River. The office is also responsible for issuing permits for use of these assets for a variety of approved purposes.



Highway patrolmen from the California Highway Patrol's West Valley Office worked with the district's Asset Management Office to secure use of the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin's spillway. Officers made use of the large, flat area to train on the use of the CHP's new patrol car, the Ford Police Interceptor Utility Model, which is replacing the force's fleet of Crown Victorias, which Ford Motor Corporation stopped manufacturing in 2011. (Photos by David A. Salazar)



Congress strengthens whistleblower protection laws

Liza Rosa

Effective Dec. 27, 2012,, through the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012, the U.S. Congress added a new Prohibited Personnel Practice to 5 U.S.C. §2302(b).

This thirteenth addition to the list of PPPs makes it a prohibited personnel practice for any employee who has the authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, to; implement or enforce any nondisclosure policy, form, or agreement, if such policy, form, or agreement does not contain the following statement: “These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict

with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to classified information, communications to Congress, the reporting to an inspector general of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.”

The purpose of this new law is to

strengthen protections for whistleblowers because encouraging them to expose waste, fraud and abuse can save money for the government and American taxpayers. It is currently unclear whether the new law will apply to appeals pending before the Board and the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on Dec. 27, 2012, no matter when the personnel action on which the claim is based occurred, or only to personnel actions and prohibited conduct that occurred on or after that date.

Additional information about the new 13th prohibited personnel practice may be found on the Merit System Protection Board’s website at <http://www.mspb.gov/ppp/pppm.htm>.



The famous Los Angeles River and flood control channel has been the backdrop and frequently used filming location for movie productions and television shows for decades, from Terminator to the Dark Knight series. Above, the iconic racing scene from the 1978 film, Grease, was filmed in a segment of the river. The Los Angeles District’s Asset Management Division issues permits for filming at federally-owned properties managed by the district, which includes portions of the Los Angeles River corridor. (Video still courtesy of Paramount Pictures)

Los Angeles District personnel, real estate often play a role in film productions

Brooks O. Hubbard IV

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District is sometimes nicknamed the Hollywood District. This is because movie companies often need to shoot in uncongested and iconic areas of Los Angeles and regularly appeal to the Corps for permission to film on property we manage.

The famous Los Angeles River and flood control channel has been the backdrop and frequently used filming location for movie productions and television shows for decades. Portions of the movies Grease, Repo Man, Terminator, and, most recently, the Batman Dark Night series, to name just a few, were filmed there.

The district’s Asset Management Division permits and facilitates the use of the flood control channel and performs other types of real estate transactions for the district. For example, they manage operations and maintenance requirements for 16 dams, debris basins, and portions of the Los Angeles River.

“The reason why the film companies come directly to us is because, in most cases, the land they are asking about is land the federal government owns,” said Willie Starks, Asset Management specialist. “They have to get permission to film on federal property. Besides the very popular Los Angeles River, another location we manage and frequently get requests to film at is the Sepulveda Dam and spillway.”

Upon issuing a film permit, another group of Corps professionals step in to ensure the environment is protected and facilities are not damaged during filming. Most of all, they ensure filming is conducted in a safe manner.

“It’s important that we are on site to provide extra eyes for safety, but the movie companies have their own safety professionals on the scene too, and we work together,” said District Occupational and Safety Specialist Steve McCombs.

In May, the U.S. Army National Guard released their newest commercial, which was filmed in the Corps’ Whittier Narrows flood control basin.

“When we get to high risk maneuvers, like the Guard using a Blackhawk and fast roping with stunt people being pulled up and down with a crane, we want to make sure everything is done properly,” McCombs said. “For that commercial, we made sure the tip of the crane was lighted and had a flag in accordance with aviation safety.”

“One of the best things about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is that they have the flexibility to provide us with a location where we can be exclusive and have an opportunity to be protected,” said Lisa Bryan, Army National Guard new media program manager. “They helped us stage and put our equipment in place, and we look forward to continuing the successful relationship we’ve developed.”

For information about who to contact about film permits, please email the public affairs office at publicaffairs.spl@usace.army.mil or call 213-452-3921.

District commander honored at LA River reception



A reception attended by many nongovernment organizations, city and county of Los Angeles officials, and legislators in support of the revitalization of the Los Angeles River took place at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens in Cypress, Calif., Aug. 28, and the guest of honor was U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Commander Col. Kimberly Colloton. The colonel was recognized for being the district’s first female commander and for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration she has already encouraged. Several speakers mentioned that the event was being held on the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, and they made the correlation to the fact that attendees also have a “dream” for the LA River. “A lot of mindful and meaningful work has been done by many over many years and I cannot let that go unnoticed,” Colloton said. “The draft report for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, consisting of a final array of four ‘best buy’ alternatives will be available on the Corps’ website by Sept. 13, and then the 45-day public comment period will start Sept. 20.” (Photo by Kristen Skopeck)

September is National Preparedness Month

NewsCastle Editorial Staff

President Barrack Obama declared September 2013 National Preparedness Month. The purpose of the observance, a joint effort by the Ready Campaign, Citizen Corps, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross and numerous other government and non-government organizations, is to make people of all walks of life aware of the numerous resources available to help them prepare for an emergency or disaster.

“As cities and towns across our country recover from natural disasters that have spanned historic drought to devastating wildfires and storms, we are reminded of the spirit of resilience that binds us together as one people and as one American family,” President Obama said. “This month, let us honor that spirit ... by taking the steps we can to protect our loved ones and our communities before disaster strikes.”

Since 2004, FEMA has sponsored National Preparedness Month, which focuses on prevention, protection, response, and recovery to help prepare Americans for all hazards—whether terrorist attack or natural disaster.

One of the campaign’s main goals is that families prepare an emergency plan and take time to put together an emergency kit of supplies that may be helpful during a disaster.

According to figures compiled by FEMA during a recent poll, 35 percent of people who said they felt prepared didn’t have a household plan. Nearly 80 percent had not conducted an evacuation drill, and more than 70 percent didn’t know evacuation routes. More than 40 percent of the poll’s respondents had practiced a workplace evacuation drill, and only 14 percent had practiced a home evacuation.

Home and workplace preparedness are especially important for Corps employees, who stand ready to engage in disaster support missions that include debris management, water procurement, temporary housing and roofing, emergency power, infrastructure assessment, and support to urban search and rescue missions.

Emergency kits should include sup-

plies for at least three days and should include items that have multiple uses and are long lasting. Kits should be kept primarily in the home, but should be considered for other locations, including vehicles and workplaces. Emergency kit contents should include:

Weather appropriate clothing, sleeping bags and shelter materials

At least three gallons of water per person—enough for one gallon for each of three days

Food items that are nutrient rich, nonperishable and require no preparation.

A first aid kit with supplies that would be helpful in the event of traumatic injury, including non-prescription and prescription medications, and personal sanitation supplies such as moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties.

Hand crank radio or television to listen for updates on local area developments

Fire-making materials, a multi-tool device, cash in small bills, and writing materials.

Keep a list of emergency personal and professional contacts handy—relying on contacts on electronic devices is not advised since they require power to be charged, and depending on the emergency, power may not be available.

For more information, go to any of the websites listed below:

- Ready Army
- Ready.gov
- FEMA.gov

Editor’s note: This report was compiled using information from various sources, including Ready.gov and internal U.S. Army Corps of Engineers newsletters.



Disasters can take many shapes. The goal of National Preparedness Month is to encourage Americans to prepare for a number of potential disasters. (File photo)

Is diet soda really a better choice?

Robert Gobble
Camp Red Cloud Area I Fitness Director

It may be calorie-free, but diet soda is linked to diabetes and other health problems, research has found.

If you’re fueling up on french fries and spending a lot of time parked on the couch, don’t expect your diet soda to save you.

Downing calorie-free pop could have the unappetizing consequence of increasing your risk of developing diabetes, according to a 2011 study published in the journal Diabetes Care.

Here is what we know: Researchers looked at people’s diet soda consumption between the years 2000 and 2002, and then screened them for type 2 diabetes between 2002 and 2007, an investigation involving more than 6,800 people between 45- and 84-years-old.

People who drank at least one diet soda a day at the beginning of the study had a 67 percent higher relative risk of type 2 diabetes compared with the people who drank none.

Zero-calorie soda also increased several risk factors linked to obesity. In turn, obesity increased your chances of heart disease, diabetes, and stroke -- by 36 percent

What it Means

Sipping diet soda to avoid calories sounds like a good idea, but in the real world it tends to come along with other behaviors that may endanger health.

This study didn’t look at the possible cause between the association of diabetes and diet soda, but the lead author has a pretty good idea why this happens.

Researchers believe that persons drinking diet soda are likely consuming other foods that elevate risk of obesity, diabetes, and stroke.

People drinking diet soda are likely to miscalculate the amount of caloric savings, thus over-consuming other foods, resulting in greater

overall energy consumption.

Aspartame

Aspartame is a common chemical sweetener used in diet soda and other low-cal or low-sugar products, but some people report headaches or generally feeling unwell after ingesting anything containing the chemical.

To make life easier for everyone, this is one instance where you may want to follow the “better safe than sorry” principle.

Aspartame is used in many diet sodas, and studies have found drinking diet soda may increase your risk of developing diabetes and metabolic syndrome. Also of concern with aspartame, researchers have found that one harmful breakdown product of aspartame is formaldehyde.

Here’s how to avoid health problems that come in a calorie-free can:

- Water yourself! Hands down, the best thing you can drink is water. Water should be your drink of choice. Beyond that, check the Beverage Guidance Panel to help you make the healthiest choices.

- Look at the whole picture. If diabetes is a real threat to you, chances are your entire problem isn’t coming from a soda can or bottle, but rather a slew of factors. To keep your blood sugar steady, eat a balanced diet with as little refined sugar as possible (replace processed foods with whole, or-

ganic vegetables and fruits), cut out soda and sweetened juices containing little real fruit juice, and get more active, even if that means walking in 10-minute spurts several times a day.

Make lots of small changes you can stick to, rather than a single dramatic one.

Lifestyle changes must be moderate and sustainable, and focus on all aspects of diet -- not just single food and beverage entities -- and include physical activity and stress management.

Too many marketing gimmicks exist that suggest there is a single cure to prevent obesity and its related morbidities. Don’t be fooled: This simply isn’t the case.



Diet soft drinks are not always the healthiest choice. Many are made with chemicals that may cause long-term harm. (File photo)

Hispanics: Serving and Leading Our Nation with Pride and Honor

Fanny Anderson
Hispanic Heritage Special Emphasis Program Manager

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated in recognition of the historical and cultural contributions of Hispanic Americans. This national observance was first established by Public Law 90-498, approved September 17, 1968, by the 90th Congress. Public Law 90-468 authorized the president to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week each year. On August 17, 1988, the 100th Congress enacted Public Law 100-402, which extended the observance from a week to a month. The annual observance is now a 31-day period beginning on September 15 and ending on October 15.

The months of September and October cover a wide range of independence days for Latin American countries. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua all celebrate their independence on September 15. Mexico celebrates its independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18. El Día de la Raza (Columbus Day) is observed on October 12. For purposes of this celebration the term Hispanic includes persons with ancestry from the countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Latinos are the fastest growing minority group in the United States. The Latino population increased by 107 percent from 1998 to 2008, compared with 14 percent for the non-Latino population and 22 percent for the total population. Only Mexico has a Latino population larger than the United States. The buying power of Latinos in the United States, estimated at \$1 trillion in 2010, is larger than the entire economies of all but 14 countries in the world. It's projected to increase by 50 percent by 2015, almost double the 27 percent national projected growth rate. Find out more on the website at: <http://www.nepdec.org/2011/09/hispanic-heritage-month-facts-figures/>

Below are a few individuals that have played major roles within the U.S. Government and science communities.

Government

U.S. Senator: Octaviano Larrazolo was elected in 1928 to finish the term of New Mexico Senator Andieus Jones, who had died in office. He served for six months before falling ill and stepping down; he died in 1930. The first Hispanic senator to serve an entire term (and then some) was Dennis Chávez, of New Mexico, who served from 1935 through 1962.

General, U.S. Army: In 1982, Richard E. Cavazos became the U.S. Army's first Hispanic four-star general.

Science

Astronaut: The first female Hispanic astronaut was Ellen Ochoa, whose first of four shuttle missions was in 1991.

In our district we have quite a few Hispanic Americans that have become leaders in our organization. This month we will focus on the leaders serving you directly in our district with pride and honor; taking on the same challenges you face while "Building Strong."

Each Monday, the Hispanic Heritage Special Emphasis

group will feature a district leader, who will share his or her rise to leadership. The group's first employee is Mr. Daniel "Danny" Carrasco, the district's chief of contracting. Here is his story.



Danny Carrasco

Carrasco: I was born and raised in Los Angeles California and have worked for the Corps Engineers, Los Angeles District since graduating from High School. I began my career as Summer Hire and worked in the Office of Administrative Services, now known as the USACE Logistics Agency. As a student I worked in human resources and the Small Business Office until finally becoming a Procurement Clerk in the Architecture and Engineering Negotiations Section, Engineering Division. After receiving my baccalaureate degree in Business from Cal State University, Los Angeles, I competed and was promoted to a contract specialist position. I currently have over twenty-five years of experience in architecture and engineering, professional services, and construction contracting. I have held various acquisition positions within the contracting organization and have even served as the district small business specialist.

As the chief of the contracting division for the Los Angeles District I get to lead a group of contracting professionals that execute the district's mission of delivering projects on time, within budget and scope to our customers and the nation. I serve the district commander as the senior advisor on the acquisition of goods and services through best value, maximizing competition, and in compliance with applicable regulations while supporting small business/socioeconomic programs. The contracting division is an integral part of the project delivery team and is fully engaged in the process of providing cradle to grave acquisition support.

I am also part of the commander's senior management team and serve the district with respect, leading the team into the future. I am a graduate of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Leadership Development Program, and have a green belt in Lean Six Sigma, and have served as an advisor to the district commander as the Hispanic employment program manager. I currently serve as the contracting officer on a Department of Defense-sponsored initiative to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in the local school system in East Los Angeles. I also serve as the district champion for the commander's district mentor program.

What I enjoy most about my job is collaborating with team members in finding solutions to the various challenges that come our way. I believe that we are more powerful together as a team and we demonstrate this every fiscal year end. The most rewarding part of my job is the relationships that I have built over the years and the trust that we have in one another as an organization. I could not have succeeded in my career without the benefit of the people that have mentored and supported me throughout my career.

Confessions of a new motorcycle rider

Daniel J. Calderón

Yeah, that's me. I'm a newbie on the cycle. I've got a used (or pre-owned if that works better) 1999 Yamaha V Star 650 Classic. It's not a super-fast bike, not a crotch rocket (if that term is still usable in this hypersensitive environment we seem to have created for ourselves while simultaneously chafing under its yoke) or anything fancy. It's a good utilitarian cruiser-type bike that I now use to get to and from work.

It was a simple matter of economics. My oldest son and my daughter are in high school and they needed transportation so my wife, who is in her last year of homeschooling my youngest since he wants to go to middle school next year, won't have to run the kids around during the day. We couldn't afford another car so the motorcycle was a more financially viable option; and, my life insurance is pretty significant so that added to the financial plus column. It does pretty well on gas so there's a big savings in that arena as well. And, if any of you have teenage drivers, you know how much insurance goes up. So, we needed to find ways to cut costs wherever we could.

And now, I'm on the road on my two-wheeler. As of publication date, I have not yet gotten on the freeway with my motorcycle. I don't know when I'll be ready and I'm in no rush; but, I do know that now is not that time. I take the surface streets to work, back home and all around when I ride. I do get up around 50-60 mph when I ride, depending on the road and the traffic. There are some back roads near my house that are usually empty in the mornings on the weekend so I get some riding in there just to see how I'll do at higher speeds. And, darn if I don't think I'm right about not getting on the freeway.

My first day riding to work was an interesting adventure. One guy in a pickup truck turned left right in front

of me. I had just enough time to notice he was on the phone as I swerved to avoid his vehicle. Another close call was a guy in a car that drove out of a parking lot without really looking to see if there



was any traffic. That one, I just had to hit the brakes and my clutch really quickly. I now know that my brakes really do work very well so I guess that's a good thing. The ride home wasn't as harrowing; but, I did lay my bike down in a parking lot as I was trying to exit. It was a pretty silly thing to do and I'm lucky all I did was tweak the mirror a bit. Fortunately,

my boots saved me from a crushed ankle and I learned just how heavy my motorcycle really is as I muscled it back up from the pavement.

Since then, I've been riding to work every day. Believe it or not, I have to wear a light jacket to work in the morning. Yeah, I'm in Phoenix; but, there is enough of a breeze as I'm rolling down the road to warrant the extra layer. On the way home; however, the jacket goes into one of the saddlebags on the bike. I'm sure that will change pretty soon, though. The weather will soon be getting into that breezy biting chill of fall and winter. I'm just dreading the rainy season. It's not that Phoenix really has much of a rainy season. It's more that when it does rain the already-low driving skills of the general population drop to almost undetectable levels and it's probably safer to juggle nitroglycerine bottles with Vaseline-covered hands than it is to ride a motorcycle around drivers out here. Still, that's what life insurance is for, right?

I think the big thing I think I'm missing out on right now is the sense of elation I hear from other more experienced motorcycle riders. From what I've been told, it's similar to a runner's high. Although, I never got that one, either. I always assumed it was because I never smoked marijuana while I was running. But, I could be wrong about that. Longtime motorcycle riders I've talked with have told me about the thrill of

being on their bikes as they ride across the open road early in the morning, as they take the curves on barely-traveled byways and as they enjoy the feel of the wind on their bodies as they rush along without the inhibition of a car's exterior all around them.

In my head, I understand that this will probably come with time and getting out more on my bike. But, as I ride along, all I can think about right now are the cars around me as I keep trying to use my Jedi "force push" powers to keep them from creeping into my lane. If I had the skill to keep a lance, a mace or even a big giant floodlight with me, I'd use that instead. I've had more than a few cars drift a bit too close for comfort. I thought it was because they couldn't see me. I've since realized it's because they aren't even looking. Yeah, there's a difference. It's not all a bad experience, though.

I usually have the chorus from Whitesnake's "Here I go Again" in my head as I ride, though, so that's a good thing. I start with the opening when I take off and ride through the neighborhood and I have the chorus up good and loud (mentally speaking) by the time I get to the 40 mph zones. I know some people would have expected Stephenwolf's "Born to be Wild" or maybe George Thorogood's "Bad to the Bone." Bonus points would have gone to you if you raised your hand (in your head, of course – it would have been odd and possibly scary if your cubicle mates saw you raising your hand for no apparent reason while staring at the screen) and suggested Bo Diddley's "Who Do you Love?" I do like those tunes; but, that's just not what I hear. Believe it or not, in addition to the Whitesnake song, I most often hear "The Boxer" and "Don't Fear the Reaper" along with some other random songs. I guess it's a good thing I don't have a stereo on my bike. My own internal jukebox keeps me well supplied with music.

So, what do I think about being on a motorcycle? Well, it's a new thing for me. I'm 40 years old and I've found I'm having to work harder on balance and

— see FINAL WORD, Page 18 —

coordination than I did 20 years ago. I've also found that I don't recover as quickly from the new rigors associated with a bike. My back is constantly sore. It's not because I ride that it's sore. That pain is from injuries I received while in the military; but, being on the bike does seem to annoy the little pain pushers (imagine microscopic gremlins that cause assorted aches and pains) inside my back. They seem to wake up and prod me in sadistic glee for several hours after I get off the bike. My hands are also pretty sore from operating the clutch, brake and throttle. It's a strange sensation to have my thumbs numb for a couple of hours at a time.

But, I'm getting used to it. I'm getting accustomed to the size, speed and quirks of my bike. Would I recommend it? I guess that depends on the person and the location. I wouldn't recommend it in LA traffic. Nothing short of an up-armored humvee is even partially safe in that environment. But, a bike out here is a pretty good thing.

It does allow you a certain freedom on the road. Yes, you can have a passenger with you; but, the bike is designed to be a one-person kind of an experience. It's safest when riding solo and it provides time for really getting closer to the road. You don't have the filter of the car, the noise of the radio (either music or talk, which I never understood as an entertainment medium. Listening to someone's opinion on things for recreation? Yeah, I do realize the irony here...) or the discussion from other people in the car. Neither do you have the distraction of texting or talking on your cell phone, or trying to eat and drive at the same time. Riding a bike seems to be a purer driving experience because all you can do while on the motorcycle is focus on your relationship with your machine and the road. It's almost a forced physical and mental introspection. You have to rely on the skills you have acquired as a driver and pit them against whatever the road chooses to throw at you.

If there are bumps in the road, grooves, small debris, water or any other obstacles, you can usually ignore them in a car. Not so on a motorcycle. You



Calderón poses on his new motorcycle at his office in Phoenix. (Photo courtesy of Daniel J. Calderón)

need to be fully aware and in tune with the road conditions since they're (as far as I know) never ideal. Even the most well-maintained roads have their share of quirks and, as a motorcycle rider, you need to be vigilant enough to deal with the rapidly-changing conditions.

So, do I recommend a motorcycle? Yeah. I do. If you're looking for a new challenge, try it. If you're "older," be prepared for it. It's not easy and it's not something that can be taken up lightly. But, it's not as difficult as I feared it

would be, either. It's harder than learning to drive a standard transmission car; but not as hard as learning to walk on your hands. I'm not sure how many of you have attempted both, but, one is definitely harder than the other. It's one of those things that if you ever wanted to try it, I would certainly recommend that you do. The alternative is to have another "What if" in your life and those are no fun. I've got enough of them and I don't want any more. Do you?

Just a thought ...

Around the District professional pride



Col. David Turner, commander of the South Pacific Division, congratulates the project delivery team for the Fort Irwin Water Treatment Plant, for their selection as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2013 Project Delivery Team of the Year (Merit Award), during his visit to the Fort Irwin Resident Office Aug. 20. (Photo by Col. Kimberly Colloton)

Col. David Turner, commander of the South Pacific Division, congratulates Joe Flynn, a supervisory constructor inspector technician with the district's Santa Ana office, upon his retirement after 26 years with the district. Flynn was later presented a Commander's Award for Civilian Service in a separate ceremony. (Photo by David A. Salazar)



Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Seybold, a project manager on numerous district projects, was presented the Army Commendation Medal for his work with the district in a small ceremony at the district's headquarters Aug. 28. (Photo by Richard Rivera)

BUILDING STRONG® and Taking Care of People!

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

