



Photo by Stephen Baack

Eric Bush, chief of the Planning and Policy Division for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, center, asks questions during a July 6 briefing with Priyanka Wadhawan, Los Angeles Ecosystem Restoration project manager with the Corps' LA District, second from right, about the LA River during a stop in Los Feliz, several miles from downtown LA. Topics included ecosystem restoration, operations and maintenance, and divestiture. The accompanying group included leaders and subject-matter experts from the Corps' LA District, South Pacific Division, and Headquarters. Left of center is Col. Julie Balten, LA District commander; and at right is David Van Dorpe, district deputy for project management.

Corps' planning, policy chief visits LA District

BY STEPHEN BAACK
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOS ANGELES – The chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Planning and Policy Division met with leaders and subject-matter experts with the Corps' Los Angeles District and South Pacific Division in early July to gain a better understanding of the LA County Drainage Area Disposition Study.

Eric Bush, who was visiting various Corps regional planning offices across the nation, said he wanted to make a stop in LA to learn more about this study, which is designed to evaluate opportunities for divestiture, disposal and improvements to operations of the LA County Drainage Area.

"It's a potentially transformative effort we're engaged in here," Bush said. "I wanted to learn more about it and maybe give more guidance to the study team doing that because I think it's one of the most important studies we have underway."

The Los Angeles County Drainage Area, or LACDA, system includes about 45 miles of flood levees and channels under the responsibility of the Corps to operate and maintain, and a larger federal project with the nonfederal partner, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, consisting of 517 miles of channels and levees, 26 debris basins and five flood-risk-management dams.

Representatives with the LA County Flood Control District requested the study, which is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 to review the operation of completed Corps projects and to examine the federal interest, including whether these areas are meeting their authorized purposes.

"We had the opportunity to discuss the LACDA disposition study with the county of LA and some senior leaders about where we are in that schedule and where we still need to go," Balten said. "It was very important to receive that input and listen to our partners in how we operate and maintain the entire LACDA system."

['CHIEF' continued on Page 4](#)

Outreach in Pico Rivera



Photo by Stephen Baack

The Los Angeles District park rangers teamed up with Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modification Project subject-matter experts July 13 at the Pico Rivera Farmers Market to get the word out on how these modifications are anticipated to affect the Pico Rivera community and address any questions or concerns residents may have. Whittier Narrows Dam was constructed in 1957 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a flood-risk management project and is located 11 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

Official publication
of the
U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Los Angeles District

August 2022
Volume 45, Issue 8

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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.

Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the district or of the Department of Defense.

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Antiterrorism Awareness Month, Women's Equality Day

Hello, SPL Team!

August is Army Antiterrorism Awareness Month, a time to remind everyone in the force how effective antiterrorism programs and sustained community vigilance can counter terrorist and extremist threats.

The subject of antiterrorism encapsulates and intersects with a lot of other topics, such as operational security, insider threats, suspicious activity reporting and countering violent extremism. The common thread is awareness – specifically the knowledge of what to look for and how to report something out of the ordinary.

"Awareness" may sound like a passive concept; but I encourage you to look at it as an active endeavor that requires specific measures, community involvement and personal vigilance on a daily basis. This may seem like a big undertaking, but the good news is we don't have to be law enforcement officers or experts in the field of antiterrorism to do our part. If you notice something that is truly out of place or doesn't look right, you can report it and let the professionals take it from there. This includes strangers asking questions about security procedures, a package left behind, vehicles left in no-parking zones in front of secure buildings – the list goes on.



COL. JULIE A. BALTEN
LA DISTRICT COMMANDER

The Army's iWATCH program includes antiterrorism awareness resources to help service members and their families identify and report potential activity. The iSALUTE site allows personnel to report threat incidents, extremist behavioral indicators and other counterintelligence matters. You also can report a crime or submit a crime tip through the Army CID

website or on a smartphone using the CID Crime Tips mobile application.

To report suspicious activity to the Joint Regional Intelligence Center, visit www.jric.org or call 562-345-1100 or 888-705-JRIC (5742). You also can call your local police department or contact the FBI through www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism/joint-terrorism-task-forces. As always, if it's an emergency, call 911.

Last, but definitely not least, keep apprised of communications through official channels – especially email – with vital information. Glen Tucker, the district's antiterrorism officer and chief of security and law enforcement, has been doing an excellent job of keeping us updated on antiterrorism topics, particularly site-specific measures and guidance, like important points of contact, personnel accountability requirements, evacuation procedures and individual protective measures.

Remember: We need help from each one of you to be our eyes and ears to help prevent terrorism.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Personal safety is important wherever you are, but it has been of particular concern around the district's headquarters building in downtown Los Angeles recently. I want you to know I take all incidents seriously, especially any that affects a member of our SPL team!

After one such incident last month, I am working with the Security and Safety offices to take into consideration increased personal safety and awareness strategies, such as disseminating more detailed crime alerts and safety tips, determining possible alternate routes for those employees who take public transportation or who walk to work and working with supervisors to revise working schedules, if needed.

I understand we are often inundated with messages in our inboxes, and I'm sure there have been times when each of us has skimmed through, put off or even forgotten to read an email altogether. I highly recommend you don't miss any communication from the Security and Safety office concerning crime reports and statistics, incident reports and personal safety tips.

As always, stay vigilant in your surroundings, walk in groups if you can, and, if you feel you are in immediate danger, call 911.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Save the date: Our nation's observance of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26 commemorates the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote. In celebrating Women's Equality Day, the Army recognizes not only the significance of women's contributions, but also the value of diversity and inclusivity to our fighting force.

This issue of the NewsCastle has some great coverage on the subject, and I'm grateful there is a day we can ALL commemorate those women who helped pave the way toward equal rights and opportunities as well as reflect on the continuing struggle for equality.

Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Col. Julie A. Balten





Photo by Stephen Baack

Col. Julie Balten, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District commander, left, talks with Eric Bush, chief of the Corps’ Planning and Policy Division, during his July 6 tour of the LA River in Los Feliz, several miles from downtown LA. Topics included ecosystem restoration, operations and maintenance, and divestiture. Balten and Bush were joined by leaders and subject-matter experts from the Corps’ LA District, the South Pacific Division and Headquarters.

‘CHIEF’ from Page 4

“I hope we achieve a win-win here, which is that we can deauthorize components of this massive flood-risk reduction project and transfer those to LA County because they’ve got the engineering capability and the resources to operate it and maintain it,” Bush said. “What that does is it lowers our operations and maintenance cost in the region and in the nation.”

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

During his visit, Bush got a closeup look at the LA River and opened a dialogue with more than a dozen subject-matter experts with the district and division to discuss the project’s successes and challenges.

One major effort is the LA River Ecosystem Restoration Project, which was initiated with the intent to restore 11 miles of the LA River

– from the area of Griffith Park to downtown Los Angeles – while maintaining existing levels of flood-risk management. Planned restoration goals include the creation and re-establishment of riparian and freshwater marsh habitat to support increased populations of wildlife and enhance habitat connectivity within the study area, as well as to provide opportunities for regional connectivity to nearby ecological zones, such as the Santa Monica and San Gabriel mountains.

“It’s very exciting to be able to get to do this and partner with the City of LA as we bring habitat back to a very urbanized channel,” Balten said. “It’s such a great opportunity to be able to show that we can do that, while maintaining flood protection that the river is there to provide for the community.”

CIVIL WORKS IN CALIFORNIA

Bush, who is from Florida and worked in

the Jacksonville District before assuming his current role at the Corps’ headquarters, said California is a prime area to do civil works.

“We’ve got all the problems here – and they’re magnified – water supply, ecosystem restoration, deep-draft navigation, inland flood, coastal storms,” Bush said. “If you like to do civil works, this is the place to do that. To me, it’s the challenges of fulfilling what Congress and taxpayers expect from the Corps of Engineers.”

“To bring him out to California and give him a perspective on the great, amazing things that our district is doing, while also looking at some of the challenges that we face here in Southern California when it comes to water and flood-risk-reduction projects and getting to know our sponsors – our partners – is critical,” Balten said. “I’m hoping he walked away with a better understanding, and we welcome him back any time because there’s so much more to show him.”

Safety Office receives recognition for best practices on mega projects

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT SAFETY OFFICE

The Los Angeles District’s Office of Safety and Occupational Health was recognized in late July by the Corps as a world-class program for their management of safety on mega projects.

During a recent design construction evaluation audit conducted at the Department of Veterans Affairs San Diego mega project, leaders with the Corps’ headquarters learned about a number of best practices the Los Angeles District has developed and implemented that have improved safety oversight on these high-visibility projects.

On the heels of this discovery, headquarters invited Chris Rainwater, the lead project safety officer for Mega Projects, to address the annual meeting of the Corps’ Safety Community of Practice at its meeting in New Orleans during the week of July 25. The Los Angeles District was the only district within the Corps to present on

what headquarters called a “success story.”

Rainwater briefed more than 100 Corps safety personnel about the innovative approach the LA District has taken for the management of safety on the mega projects. Headquarters identified a number of best practices, including:

- The appointment by the commander of Rainwater as the government’s designated authority, or GDA, for safety, thereby ensuring a safety subject-matter expert reviews all safety-related issues on these large projects;
- The innovative approach developed in the district on conducting formal Corps safety inspections, and the new and detailed reports the walks have generated;
- The collaborative approach to partner with

all stakeholders on the projects, including the Corps, the Office of Construction and Facilities Management, the VA, the prime contractor and subcontractors;

- The expanded role of the GDA in the review and acceptance of all safety-related documents, including the Activity Hazard Analyses, work plans, crane plans, etc.;
- The maximization of the use of the Resident Management System to ensure all reviews and other activities are formally tracked.

As a result of this innovative approach, both the Louisville and the Sacramento districts are now seeking the assistance of the LA District in their own mega projects, and headquarters indicated the methods the LA District have developed are leading the way.

Around the District

“The reason I like working for USACE is because I get to help the nation daily.”

Jason is currently reviewing designs and specifications for the Phoenix VA Medical Center project. He is a native of New York City and has been with the Corps for about two and a half years.

Jason Zhang
Mechanical Engineer

Click the links below to find the Los Angeles District on social media!

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

YouTube

Flickr

LA District completes Santa Ana River Bike Path in Yorba Linda

In late July, the Los Angeles District turned over the Reach 5B section of the completed Santa Ana River Bike Path in Yorba Linda, California, to the public. The 2.4 mile section, which is part of a larger multi-purpose, multi-phase flood-risk-reduction and environmental-restoration project, accommodates runners, walkers and other approved means of conveyance, such as electric-assisted and electric-powered mobility devices. The path is part of a larger, uninterrupted recreational path system that extends 27 miles to the Pacific Ocean at Huntington Beach.

Women's Equality Day 2022 provides healing, hope

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOS ANGELES — In recognition of the significant contributions by women, the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District commemorates Women's Equality Day Aug. 26.

The Army recognizes not only the significance of women's contributions, but also the value of diversity and inclusivity of women to our fighting force. The observance has grown to include focusing attention on women's continued efforts toward gaining full equality. The 2022 Women's History theme, "Providing Healing, Promoting Hope," is a tribute to the work of caregivers and frontline workers during the ongoing Covid pandemic. It's also recognition of the ways that women of all cultures provided healing and hope throughout history.

"Women's Equality Day is a reminder that there is no limit to what we could do as women. There are no barriers we cannot break, no goal we cannot reach," said Hiliary Innerbichler, secretary for the Contracting Division with the LA District. "It is a reminder to every woman that we have never stopped fighting for our right to be equal."

Innerbichler volunteered to be the Corps' local EEO chairperson for the Federal Woman's Employment Program and has served in that position for three years.

Women's equality was advocated by Abigail Adams, wife of third U.S. President John Adams, as early as March 31, 1776.

"I long to hear that you have declared an independency. And, by the way, in the new code of laws, which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors," Adams said. "Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands."

It wasn't until 1848 that Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the National Woman Suffrage Association and the first women's rights convention, based on the Declaration of Independence. The suffragette movement gained national momentum around the beginning of the 20th century, before World War I, when it saw a dramatic increase of women working in what were traditionally men's jobs, such as factory workers, aviation, medicine, construction and engineering.

In 1917, during the war, New York adopted women's suffrage. Once President Woodrow Wilson changed his position to support an amendment in 1918, the political balance began to shift in favor of enfranchising women. The amendment had been offered in the previous



National Archives

Pictured is a women's suffrage parade in New York City in 1912.

42 sessions of Congress; however, there was still strong political opposition to it. Many of the women who peacefully protested as "Silent Sentinels" – standing outside the White House six days a week – were arrested and jailed, with some going on hunger strikes during detention. It was the first time the White House was picketed. Still, the women persisted and public sympathy grew.

While women got the hard-fought right to vote in 1919, they still faced the glass ceiling. Since then, remarkable women have risen in the military ranks to general, DoD Senior Executive Service, governorships, to congresswomen and senators, and vice president of the United States. The private sector lags in equality, with women today earning 82 cents per dollar men earn.

According to a recent Pew survey, women in the U.S. continue to earn less than men, on average. Among full-time, year-round workers in 2019, women's median annual earnings were 82 percent those of men. However – and hopeful with the 2022 theme – the survey goes on to note that 22 out of 250 American cities now pay women more than men, at roughly 102 percent.

In a women's symposium in January, Col. Antoinette Gant, SPD commander, and Col. Julie

Balten, SPL commander, addressed the challenges they faced as young engineer officers encountering entrenched societal pressures.

"It's a great thing you are doing, having a women's forum, where it's not just about women; it's also about males, who are part of your organization, to be able to be a part of it," Balten said. "That is important because this is not just a women's issue. This is something we want to make sure, all around, that everyone understands some of the challenges, especially with being a woman in some of the environments we're in, and some of the challenges we face, so that we all can be able to help each other."

During the event, Gant also shared one of her favorite quotes – one of many she tells herself daily to keep her motivated: "You may succeed if no one else believes in you, but you will never succeed if you don't believe in yourself."

First Lady Abigale Adams summed up her message of equality for women in 1776: "Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."



Photo by Robert DeDeaux

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Security Specialist Shane Bush inspects government vehicles during a review of the Corps vehicle fleet Aug. 3 at the Phoenix area office covered parking area. The Phoenix area office is responsible for more than 15 government vehicles. Bush provides recommendations to Corps leadership and building managers on the best security procedures to prevent crime. He has served for more than 35 years in various positions – as a Soldier, a private contractor and an Army civilian.

LA District promotes security during Antiterrorism Awareness Month

BY ROBERT DEDEAUX
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOENIX – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District security team describes the purpose of organizational security programs during an inspection of federally leased property Aug. 3 near the Phoenix Area Office.

The district promotes security programs and education as it recognizes August as Antiterrorism Awareness Month.

“The key to successfully protecting USACE assets is to have the right people doing the right things, which includes facility managers and senior leaders,” said Shane Bush, a district security specialist based in Phoenix. “The security teams are there to facilitate protection, including training and exercises. One of the biggest challenges is getting people to understand the importance of the Security Division.”

The district’s Security Division establishes and recommends programs and procedures designed to protect employees, critical infrastructure, mission-essential assets, and controlled and classified defense information. The security team accomplishes these tasks through a process called Integrated Protection.

“Integrated Protection comprise operational protection, law enforcement functions, and intelligence and security countermeasures,” said Paul Drew, a district security specialist with more than 21 years in the security field.

Security programs are a large part of the Army’s protection process.

“A robust security program is important as it improves systems and procedures by providing solutions that are tailored to meet the organization’s requirements, while enhancing mission capabilities,” said Bush, a former Soldier and security contractor. “I enjoy helping solve problems and teaching. Every proj-

ect is different, and it is great to be involved in the process of ‘Building Strong.’”

The Army has implemented a number of programs and websites designed to educate and inform the public of the growing safety risks. The iWATCH program provides a list of antiterrorism awareness resources for service members and civilian employees to identify and report suspicious activity. The Army’s iSALUTE site allows employees and their families to report threat incidents, extremist behavioral indicators and other security matters.

In a previous interview, the district’s antiterrorism officer and chief of security and waw enforcement, Glen Tucker, said individuals also can report suspicious activity to the Joint Regional Intelligence Center by visiting www.jric.org or calling 562-345-1100 or 888-705-JRIC (5742). As always, in an emergency, please call 911.

Engineer Safety Gram:
Learning about heat-related work/rest cycles, water-consumption table as safety measures

LA DISTRICT SAFETY OFFICE

Army Public Health Command has produced the definitive chart on work/rest cycles used throughout the Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for several decades.

This valuable tool assists project supervisors in determining work-to-rest time ratios assuming the worker is average-sized, heat acclimated and wearing light clothing appropriate for the weather and climate. Workloads – easy, moderate and hard work – shall be taken into account. Supervisors should adjust for any factors that deviate from that baseline, accordingly.

Employees can contact the Safety Office with questions regarding the use of this chart.

And remember: Drink water!



Heat Category	WBGT Index, F°	Easy Work		Moderate Work		Hard Work	
		Work/Rest (min)	Water Intake (qt/hr)	Work/Rest (min)	Water Intake (qt/hr)	Work/Rest (min)	Water Intake (qt/hr)
1	78° - 81.9°	NL	½	NL	¾	40/20 min	¾
2 (green)	82° - 84.9°	NL	½	50/10 min	¾	30/30 min	1
3 (yellow)	85° - 87.9°	NL	¾	40/20 min	¾	30/30 min	1
4 (red)	88° - 89.9°	NL	¾	30/30 min	¾	20/40 min	1
5 (black)	> 90°	50/10 min	1	20/40 min	1	10/50 min	1

Notes: The work/rest times and fluid replacement volumes will sustain performance and hydration for at least four hours of work in the specified heat category. Fluid needs can vary based on individual differences (± ¼ qt/hr) and exposure to full sun or full shade (± ¼ qt/hr).

NL = no limit to work time per hour.

Rest = minimal physical activity (sitting or standing) accomplished in shade if possible.

CAUTION: Hourly fluid intake should not exceed 1½ quarts. Daily fluid intake should not exceed 12 quarts.

Does Your Life Jacket Fit You Properly?

Life jackets come in sizes to fit babies through larger adults. They are intended to keep you afloat in lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water.

Worn correctly, they work!



Life jacket should feel snug, yet comfortable. Lift up on the shoulders to make sure it doesn't slip above your chin or ears.

Check the label for U.S. Coast Guard approval, weight limit, and activity types.

Straps should be pulled tight and not twisted.

All buckles and zipper, if it has one, should be fastened.

Damaged life jackets should be discarded and replaced. Check often for mold, broken parts, holes, tears, and buoyancy.

Infant and some child life jackets have a strap between the legs. Be sure to fasten that for extra protection.



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