

# Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT



inside

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Volume XXXI No. 2

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*Kayla Stull: This Flagship is for you*



**Kayla Stull**, Seattle District Emergency Operations Crisis Action Team member, has helped deploy responders, prepare documents for the Crisis Management Team and develop operational plans for executing response authorities in the Emergency Operations Center. Kayla collected lessons learned, developed the agenda and facilitated the after action review for the Oso Landslide as well as prepared its report. Kayla was a key part of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program team and helped plan other crucial training events.

**Kayla Stull**, this Flagship is for you.



Cover:

At low tide on Aug. 28, 2015, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers breached a levee separating fallow farmland and the Puget Sound at Possession Sound in Washington State. When the tide returned, it began restoring 360 acres of salt marshes to their condition of more than a century ago. This is part of our Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration Project, a USACE-Tulalip Tribes partnership in the Snohomish River estuary that historically included marshes, lowland forest, mudflats and interconnected channels.

**Flagship**

**Col. John G. Buck, Commander**  
**Patricia Graesser, Chief, Public Affairs**  
**Tanya King, Editor**  
**Elizabeth Townsell, Editorial Assistant**  
**Bill Dowell, Contributor**  
**Scott Lawrence, Contributor**

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commentary

# Many thanks to district members for our success

Seattle District has been successful by any measure this year. We've completed ecosystem restoration projects, delivered world-class barracks and other facilities to our Soldiers and a re-paved a runway for the airmen at Mountain Home to keep them flying. We've awarded significant dredging projects, made real progress in infrastructure upgrades at our dams, and improved our customer service during a volatile time. All these achievements required tremendous teamwork. And while teamwork is how we get things done, the district is only as strong as each member of those teams. That is why I want to take this opportunity to highlight some people who have been recognized for excellence or professional development.

Each year our district employees are recognized above the district level and this year was no exception. Captain Rex Broderick won the 2014 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wounded Warrior Support Award, recruiting and helping to place a variety of recovering soldiers throughout the district. Mike Peele was named the USACE Responder of the Year for leading the response team at the State Route 530 Landslide. Jon Norquist was awarded the Northwestern Division Construction Management Excellence Award for his work as a Project Engineer at Joint Base Lewis McChord Area Office. Recognition at higher levels in the Corps builds the district's reputation internal to USACE and with our partners.

I recently had the pleasure of speaking to the National Society of Professional Engineers, because professional certification is something I believe helps employees as individuals and enhances the reputation of the district. This year a number of our employees earned professional recognition. Nathan Gregory, Design Branch, passed the seven part architecture registration exam and received his professional license from the State of Washington. Brian Stenehem, Design Branch, passed the Professional Engineer examination and is now a registered PE in the State of Washington. Natalie Vander Hulst, Construction Services Branch, passed her PE exam and is now a licensed Civil Engineer in the State of Washington. Ellen Engberg passed the Washington State Geologist Exam and received her Professional Geologist License. Wendy Liner-Arms and Jim Byrne, JBLM Technical Engineer Section,

have been certified by the Association of Energy Engineers as "Certified Building Commissioning Professionals." GIS Specialist Scott Campbell received his certification as a GIS professional by the GIS Certification Institute.

Other district team members marked academic milestones this year. Katie Garon in Engineering Division earned her Master's Degree in Earth

& Space Sciences: Applied Geosciences; and Jessie Mizik, PPPMD, received her Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. Logan Osgood-Jacobs, Hydraulics and Hydrology Branch, obtained her Masters Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Washington; and Marianna Murphy and Kathryn Key, both Department of the Army interns, obtained Bachelor's Degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of

Washington. Jacob Williams, Environmental Technology Section, also received a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from the UW.

Each of these personal success stories is inspirational. They inspire me, and I hope they inspire you to keep reaching to serve as a standard bearer for your profession. I encourage you to not only keep current but to advance your field and provide exceptional service. Whether that's budgeting, engineering, administration, system mechanics or ecosystem restoration, each of us can continue to lead the way down our path.

I'm sure I've missed many of you out there who have also reached milestones in professional development or earned recognition this past year. If I have, please let me hear about it. One of my greatest pleasures is bragging about what you do.



**Seattle District Commander  
Col. John G. Buck**



—*Essayons!*

# Bioremediation: Enlisting bacteria to battle contaminants

By Scott Lawrence  
Public Affairs Office

**B**uilding upon previous success, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is taking an innovative approach to treating explosives-contaminated groundwater – enlisting the help of microorganisms.

In a process known as bioremediation, Seattle District environmental engineers are using an additive to alter conditions and induce bacteria to break down an explosive contaminant at Naval Base Kitsap in Bangor, Washington.

Contamination at NB Kitsap stems from explosives-contaminated water being disposed in unlined lagoons from the 1960s until 1972. While lagoons were filled and capped with asphalt in 1980, over time contaminated water

penetrated about 50 feet of unsaturated soil, reaching the groundwater and creating the roughly 120-acre contaminated groundwater plume present today.

Beginning in 1994, a pump-and-treat system was used for contaminant removal. However, pump-and-treat removal efficiency had declined over time, prompting Navy officials to seek alternate means to optimize treatment efforts. Seattle District's successful bioremediation results at the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Oregon, a comparable groundwater-treatment project, pointed a way forward.

"Back in the 80s and 90s, pump-and-treat was the standard remedy for groundwater remediation, but it can only take you so far," said Mandy Michalsen, senior scientist and technical lead for the project. "It provides great contaminant removal results initially, but over time you're just not extracting as much.

"Today we have many positive results, like those at Umatilla, showing bioremediation to be more cost effective, more efficient and yielding better results than pump-and-treat," Michalsen said. "In fact, we received so much attention from our Umatilla work, Navy officials noticed and then reached out to us for assistance."

Although the groundwater plume at NB Kitsap includes other explosive contaminants such as trinitrotoluene, commonly known as TNT, scientists are focused on RDX – an explosive organic compound often used in military applications.

"Since TNT is less soluble and sticks to the soil, making it easier to treat, we are focusing on RDX which forms the boundary of the groundwater plume," said Aaron King, project environmental engineer.

Having Umatilla as a bioremediation blueprint of sorts, the Seattle District team first set out to determine what type of additive would yield the best results.

"From our work at Umatilla, we knew certain carbon substrates would work well in encouraging microorganisms to break-down RDX," King said. "Of those, we

picked corn syrup and ethanol to figure out which one worked best and also to get our RDX degradation rates. We wanted to find the one that was the most energetically favorable so we could reduce the cleanup time."

Field tests conducted in fall 2013 to spring 2014 presented a clear winner: Corn syrup had a degradation rate roughly three times greater than that for ethanol.

"The addition of corn syrup results in the formation of anaerobic conditions which degrade contaminants in the groundwater," King explained. "In anaerobic RDX biodegradation, microbes facilitate breakdown of the RDX molecule to form nitrite, nitrous oxide, and formaldehyde, which are ultimately transformed to nitrogen gas and carbon dioxide."

Using field test results, model simulations projected out over a 20-year timeframe indicate that using pump-and-treat systems without bioremediation would leave RDX concentrations at a 50 microgram-per-liter level. However, when bioremediation is included to optimize pump-and-treat systems RDX concentrations are expected to be about 10 micrograms-per-liter, a significant reduction which subsequently should expedite natural recovery.

Armed with positive results, environmental engineers are preparing for another round of field tests at Bangor this fall. These tests will include increasing the number of injection sites, measuring formation response to injections and estimating local groundwater velocities.

As the Seattle District team continues to make innova-



Contractors collect, record and pack soil samples for testing at Naval Base Kitsap in Bangor, Washington.



Environmental Engineer Aaron King mixes corn syrup into a tank of water to be injected underground. Prior to injecting the corn syrup solution, water quality parameters in groundwater are measured. (Corps photo)

tive strides forward in bioremediation treatment solutions, its accomplishments are also opening pathways to new initiatives and partnerships.

"We are forging new collaborations all the time, potentially teaming with University of Connecticut on a new groundwater project at Naval Base Kitsap next fall, using stable isotope tracers to track contaminants as they are degraded during our tests," Michalsen said. "We also obtained a grant from the Navy Environmental Sustainability Development to Integration program to evaluate aerobic bioaugmentation at our Navy site as well, results of which have been promising.

"While most people don't think of the Corps as leaders in groundwater remediation, our recent cutting edge successes at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and Naval Base Kitsap are starting to change that."

# WARTIME CAMOUFLAGE

By Seattle District  
Public Affairs Office

During World War II Seattle District completed one of the most unusual projects in its history.

Beginning in 1942, in Seattle and Los Angeles districts, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers set to work to foil any planned attack on West Coast aircraft factories through an enormous disguise mission.

After Pearl Harbor was attacked it appeared that the West Coast could also be targeted. Subject to possible attack were military aircraft factories that had sprung up during the pre-war years in southern California and Seattle. In December 1941 about half of American military aircraft, including almost all the heavy bomber output, were manufactured on the West Coast. The known Japanese threat caused the War Department to take steps to strengthen coastal defenses and to provide massive protection especially to the aircraft plants.

In May 1936 Boeing built Plant 2 for B-17 production, expanding it for increased production each year after. When Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941, Boeing's new "Fortress Factory" had finished its final expansion to 1,776,000 square feet,

with part of the facility built on pilings above the Duwamish Waterway.

To hide the Boeing factory from possible aerial attack, the Seattle District built a massive camouflage covering that made Plant 2 and Boeing Field appear as a residential area.

Development of elaborate camouflage measures for vital defense industries became one of the more novel features of the Seattle District's wartime activities. Protective concealment of these operations from aerial attack became a high priority concern. In January 1942, when air attack seemed imminent, the district organized a camouflage section within its Engineering Division. Personnel assigned to this task soon increased from an initial four to 38, including architects, commercial artists, landscape architects, engineers, and an agronomist. Camouflage to protect from air attack was a comparatively new measure, so efforts during the first year focused on training and experiments to develop the best techniques. While a few members of the district team attended the Corps' Camouflage School at Fort Belvoir, Vir-

ginia, most participated in a 10-week course run by the Office of Civilian Defense at the University of Washington.

The Boeing plant and airfield received the highest priority in camouflage. The sheer size of the undertaking caused the District Engineer to maintain that complete concealment was impossible and that only a "tone down" be attempted. While awaiting a decision from higher authority on this approach, the camouflage section began preliminary studies by creating a scale model of the Boeing plant. At this juncture, two Hollywood art directors, Captains John Detlie and Malcom Brown, with backgrounds in visual deception and professional degrees in engineering and architecture, joined the camouflage unit. Eventually this team developed workable plans, not only for the Boeing plant but also for eleven other airfields and numerous other military installations.

District employee Hanford Thayer had some involvement in the Boeing effort and later recalled, "The camouflage plan was to build a fake town across the Boeing plant itself and across Boeing Field. The artificial picture would be made up of asphalt, lumber, wood chips, feathers, fake

trees and bushes. It was a good blind, and possibly gave us some protection." The treatment for airfields consisted of a texture made of finely crushed rock rolled into a bitumal adhesive and applied to the runways and then painted with disguising colors and outlines. The deception proved so effective that incoming pilots expressed frustration in locating the runway at camouflaged Boeing Field.

Camouflage remained in place at West Coast facilities until the end of the war.

Underneath the camouflage Boeing employees, including women working then-nontraditional factory jobs and known as Rosie the Riveters, worked in two shifts and on multiple moving assembly lines, building an average of 12 B-17s each day. In all, Boeing workers built 6,981 B-17s at Plant 2.

#### Sources:

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[http://www.boeing.com/news/frontiers/archive/2010/august/i\\_history.pdf](http://www.boeing.com/news/frontiers/archive/2010/august/i_history.pdf)



The Seattle District was tasked with a seemingly impossible mission in the wake of the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese forces on Dec. 7, 1941: To camouflage acres upon acres of Boeing real estate where military aircraft were being built. The plant was shrouded by intricate camouflage to deceive potential enemy pilots. (Historical photos courtesy of Boeing)

in testing

# Seis-ing up the Locks

## District geologists perform special inspection to identify risk

**By Lisa Scott**  
*Geology and Instrumentation Section*

Between October 12 to 15, 2015, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, geology section oversaw drilling of a 200-ft deep mud rotary borehole to gather data for a seismic evaluation of the locks.

This was necessary because the Lake Washington Ship Canal is a man-made waterway connecting Lake Washington to the Puget Sound. The ship canal consists of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks and associated facilities, the 5,800 feet Fremont Cut between Salmon Bay and Lake Union, and the 2,500 feet Montlake Cut between Lake Union and Lake Washington. The project is nearly 100 years old and project features were not designed to meet current guidelines. A periodic assessment was conducted at the ship canal in May 2014 and risks were identified. It was recommended that an Issue Evaluation Study be

conducted to further quantify and confirm any risks, and whether a dam safety modification study is needed.

In support of the IES, a seismic hazard study was identified to be needed. The seismic study identifies appropriate ground motions and response spectra to properly evaluate the design adequacy of the structural features at the Locks. The contractor took soil samples for a liquefaction analysis of the backfill. They also used a down-hole suspension logging tool to measure shear wave velocity in the foundation material.

The results will help district officials assess how the lock structure will respond during an earthquake. Shannon and Wilson was the prime contractor, and the sub-contractor was Holt Drilling.



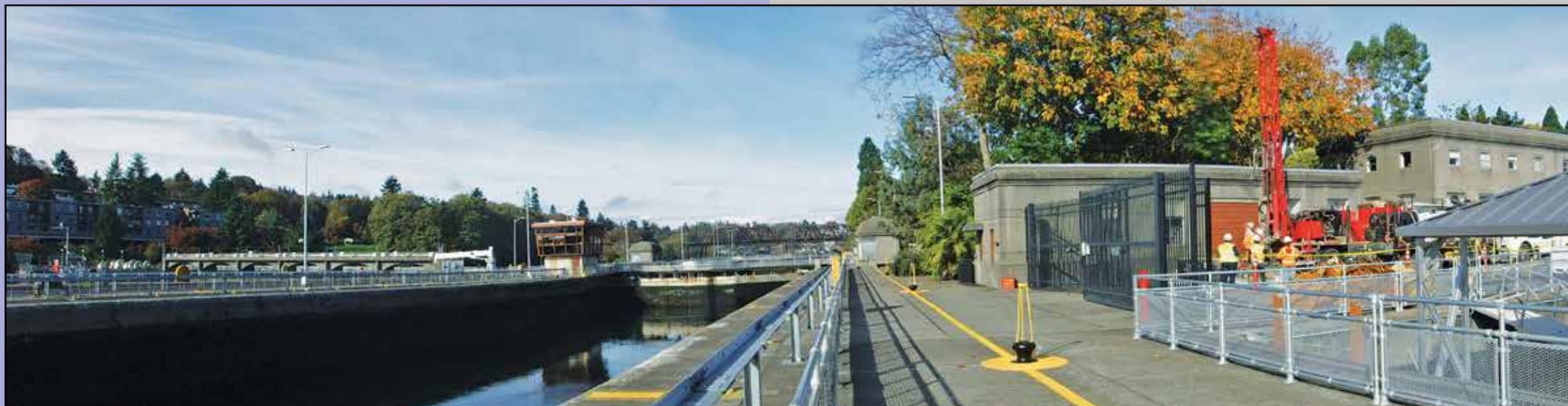
Corps photo by Lisa Scott

(Above) Geologists examine a sample of Lawton Clay, a mixture of clay and silt. It forms from sediment that accumulated in lakes and streams before the last glacier pushed over the Puget Sound lowlands. (Below) A mud rotary drill rig is set up next to the Locks.



Corps photo by Lisa Scott

(Above) Geologists record soil samples from the bore hole. (Below) Katie Garon, USACE, examines samples alongside (right) Jennifer Parker of Shannon & Wilson, the prime contractor hired to perform the work.



Corps photo by Laura Boerner



Corps photo by Laura Boerner

# 65-ton historic discovery at JBLM



By Scott Hansen  
Northwest Guardian  
Joint Base Lewis-McChord

A once world-record flagpole has been given new life at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, after construction workers recently unearthed its 65-ton base during construction near the DuPont Gate. Top right, workers maneuver the remains of the former Camp Lewis flagpole into place (bottom right) near Pershing Circle, where it will be permanently displayed. The 300-foot-tall flagpole (left) was first raised on Oct. 12, 1918, and included a 60-by 90-foot, 257-pound flag.



in construction

# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

On Sept. 29, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, completed 10 years' worth of work with many agencies and individuals, including the Washington National Guard, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Burns & McDonnell Architecture, and RQ Construction. The largest facility of its type in the National Guard is a 125,621 sq. ft. two-story facility and includes an assembly area, locker rooms, a variety of meeting rooms and offices. The project contains 12,961 sq. yd. of asphalt and 1,973 sq. yd. of concrete pavements to provide a storage lot for a variety of tactical vehicles, as well as 402 parking spaces for privately owned vehicles. The new facility architecturally coordinates with the neighboring Washington National Guard facility, establishing a unique National Guard campus identity on JBLM.



Corps photo

AAC Hangar project Seattle District is building at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, which will serve the Soldiers of the 2-158th Assault Helicopter Battalion, part of the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, which flies UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. Construction is about 40 percent complete. The \$37.4M construction contract was awarded in August 2014 to Archer Western Federal JV, and the subcontractor for steel erection work was done by CHG Building Systems Inc. The project is scheduled to be completed May 2016.



Corps photo



Corps photo

The new \$14 million Lewis North Athletics Complex opened Oct. 30 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and includes four synthetic turf softball fields, two outdoor basketball courts and two multipurpose fields for flag football, soccer and rugby. The synthetic turf is important so members do not have to worry about rocks, mud, drainage issues or other debris that would prevent them from doing athletic activities like natural grass fields would. The new 25-acre complex enables service members to either play intramural leagues or pick up games in their leisure time.



Corps photo

The Army Reserve Center project is a two year, \$32 million (construction) 104,000-square-foot complex on a 22-acre site including a training facility, organization maintenance building and other various storage buildings. The complex will support over 1,100 Army Reserve troops in medical, transportation, logistics and training support units. The Prime Contractor is S.M. Wilson out of St. Louis Missouri. The project is currently 97 percent complete and is undergoing final commissioning prior to beneficial occupancy scheduled for the end of December 2015.



in reflection

# Commit to quit today

**Commentary**  
**By Tanya King**  
*Public Affairs Office*

I was three months pregnant with twins, peering over the edge of an emergency room hospital bed, when I had to explain to my 3-year old daughter why her daddy had so many tubes and wires sticking out of him.

“Is daddy OK?,” she asked.

The truth is, I didn’t know. I fought back tears as I watched doctors run tests to determine how severe my husband’s stroke was. Outside I was a strong, confident wife and mommy, comforting my husband and baby girl while nurturing a fragile, high-risk twin pregnancy. But inside I was the baby, bawling and feeling vulnerable and weak.

As I fretted in the emergency room, my mind fixated on one question—why? How can it be that an otherwise healthy 37-year-old man could have a stroke with no warning signals? After a battery of tests and racking up almost \$2 million in hospital bills, one of the best neurologists in the Pacific Northwest told us after he presented my husband’s case at an annual stroke conference that we ignored the biggest warning signal of all—he was a smoker.

My motto is normally “live and let live,” but when my husband’s life was almost taken in an instant, I thought sharing my story might help inspire others to quit smoking.

Sure, we’ve heard the old adage: smoking kills. The surgeon general has been telling us since 1964 that smoking increases the risk of cancer, emphysema, stroke, heart disease, birth defects... I could go on but you might just tune me out the way my husband always glazed over those warning labels every time his finger flipped open the cardboard box when he grabbed a lung dart, sparked the flint to the butane and stole a few minutes for himself.



Duane King lays in a hospital bed while three Valley Medical Center nurses perform a host of tests on him following a smoking-related stroke he suffered in January 2014 at age 37.

I rationalized his addiction by telling myself it was his reprieve from crying fits, barking dogs and my “honey-do” list. But every time he stole those 10-minute smoke breaks for himself, he was really robbing those 10 minutes from the end of his life and from us too.

He used to tell me everyone has to die sometime and he would prefer to die with a cigarette in his hand. He felt differently last year in the emergency room that frozen January night, not knowing if he had reached his end at age 37. With tears in his eyes, he confessed he’s lucky to be alive.

I never thought this would be our story. We’ve all heard that guy who smoked two packs of cigarettes a day and lived to be 100, but tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and illness in this country. The Center for Disease Control cites that each year 443,000 people die from smoking, while another 8.6 million live with an illness caused by it. Yet 46.6 million continue to smoke.

Are you one of them? One day you may also be one of the 8.6 million people living with debilitating, disfiguring, painful and expensive-to-treat illnesses. It’s easy to say everyone must die sometime or that it won’t happen to me, but it’s not easy to be the one living with one of these diseases or supporting someone who gets one. We still struggle with the aftermath of my husband’s smoking-related stroke. He fights to communicate the way he could before. He’s suffered through depression; his personality has changed as his brain rewired itself to heal.

Probably no one quits smoking after reading a surgeon general warning and maybe no one will after reading this, but I hope it makes you want to at least try. I watched my husband struggle to quit after smoking a pack a day for 20 years. It took this stroke to make him quit. You don’t have to suffer the way my family has if you just take the first step toward quitting--commit to quit.

People care about you and want to help. In addition, insurance companies, public health offices, doctors’ offices and hotlines all offer solutions and resources at little or no cost. A quick internet search will turn up many resources.

Take the first crucial step to quitting today by making the choice to live. What are you waiting for?



Duane King snuggles and watches a movie with his then 3-year-old daughter, August, in a hospital bed hours after suffering a smoking-related stroke.

Courtesy photos by Tanya King

around the district

**Moving On:**

- Chris Bostick
- Devon Clemens
- Rob Corkrun
- Lance Douglas
- Walter Hammermeister
- Terese Marklinger
- Thomas McDonald
- Mark Murphy
- Karen Peterson
- Joe Quintinita
- Kent Ritter
- Juan Tablada
- Steve Theel
- Gary Theil
- Dianne Wilson
- Edward Wilson
- Kelly Woodford

**Condolences:**

- Sam Adkins
- Bob Harris
- David Wong

**Congratulations:**

**Mark Slominski** is the new Construction Support Branch chief and Construction Division deputy chief. **Martin Hansen** is the new Lewis and Clark Project Office chief. **Jonathan Hofstra** is Chief Joseph Dam’s new maintenance chief. **Jacalen Printz** and **Tina Tong** are new section chiefs in the Regulatory Branch. **Morgan Miller** is the new Critical Incident Stress Management Program manager. **Jonathan Norquist** is the new Lewis resident engineer, and **Kyle Crass** is the new McChord resident engineer.

**Chris Frans** completed his doctorate degree, **Katie Garon**, **Logan Osgood-Jacobs** and **Jessie Mizik** completed Master’s degrees and **Marianna Murphy**, **Jacob Williams** and **Katie Key** completed Bachelor’s degrees. **Nathan Gregory** passed the architecture registration exam and received his professional architecture license. **Brian Stenehjem** and **Natalie Vander Hulst** passed the professional engineer examination.

**Beth Coffey** was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

**Lynn Daniels** was named Project Manager of the Year for the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

**Out and About:** **Travis Ball**, hydraulic engineer, hosted a webinar in May to 70 Environmental Protection Agency employees, for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Silver Jackets Program. The presentation gave an

overview of the program and focused on mutually beneficial opportunities for interagency projects at the state level.

**Charles Ifft**, Seattle District Levee Safety Program Manager, was an author and presented as the technical expert on response techniques for a webinar in May, featuring the International Levee Handbook’s Emergency Management chapter. Discussion topics included emergency management and response techniques for various failure modes.

**Deployed:**

- Deborah Johnston
- Michael Baldaia
- Jim Collins
- Mark Ortner
- Alan Manville
- Natanielle Little
- Edward Pena

## Welcome to the District:



Daniel Watson  
Power Plant Trainee  
Operator



Stacie Keller  
Mission Support  
Specialist



Elke Neal  
Contract Specialist



Kaitlenn Schnell  
Fish Biologist



Lucas Bashans  
Power Plant Trainee  
Chief Joseph Dam



Stephen Lesky  
Natural Resources Specialist  
Chief Joseph Dam



Jeremy Farrington  
Power Plant Trainee  
Electrician



Chris Frans  
Hydraulics and Hydrology  
Civil Engineer



Patrick Jones  
Power Plant Trainee  
Mechanic



Shad Moore  
Power Plant Trainee  
Chief Joseph Dam



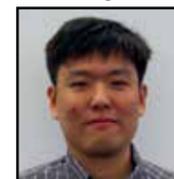
James Balken  
Mechanical Engineer  
Chief Joseph Dam



Sean Harrell  
Supply Technician  
Chief Joseph Dam



Jeremy Gibson  
Power Plant Trainee  
Operator



Ray Koong  
Mechanical/Cost Engineer



Jamie Sachette  
Contract Specialist



Robert Steele  
Human Resources Specialist



LeeAnn McDonal  
Natural Resources Specialist  
Chief Joseph Dam



Kyle Gazaway  
Power Plant Electrician  
Chief Joseph Dam

Public Affairs Office  
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Seattle, WA 98134-2392

# Check us out on social media!



**Are you headed into the field to get dirty? We want photos! The public affairs office routinely posts photos, stories and information about all the things we do here in the district. We need your help by passing along photos of you and your colleagues doing your jobs. Jeff Laufle, Seattle District biologist, snapped the above photo of the building and passed it on to the public affairs office for use on social media. Action shots are great when they show our district members doing all the interesting things we do on a daily basis and help tell the public and each other what we do. Send them to [tanya.m.king@usace.army.mil](mailto:tanya.m.king@usace.army.mil). Check out our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usacenws](http://www.facebook.com/usacenws) and our twitter page at [www.twitter.com/seattledistrict](http://www.twitter.com/seattledistrict).**