

# RIP RAP

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District

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*This photo of the Corps' Cochiti Lake wrapped in winter's embrace was captured on Dec. 30, 2011.*



**US Army Corps of Engineers®**  
Albuquerque District

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District Engineer,  
Lt. Col. Jason Williams

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*District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams presents his thanks and a plaque to LaDonna Harris.*



## Native American Icon Joins Leaders at Planning Session

By Cheryl Buckel, Strategic Planner

The theme for the District's 2011 Strategic Planning Session Dec. 12 was "Leaving a Legacy," and session participants were put in the spirit of planning for the future after listening to speaker LaDonna Harris, a resident of New Mexico and historic icon, who has spent years working to better the lives and communities of Native Americans.

Harris talked about how she has dedicated her life and career to improving the quality of life of others. She said some have called her the "Coretta Scott King" of Native American social activism.

A native Oklahoma Comanche, Harris was married to former U.S. Sen. Fred Harris and lived in the Nation's capital when she got her start in public life. It was during the 1960s, and there were many Native American issues in the news. Helping to find resolutions to these issues gained Harris her reputation as a tireless worker. One of the causes she stepped behind from the start was helping the Taos Pueblo regain ownership of Blue Lake after many years of struggle with the U.S. Government,

another was fighting for the reinstatement and recognition of the Menominee tribe.

Harris began her discussion with District leadership by reviewing the timeline that motivated her to become a social activist for Native American issues. She then encouraged an interactive discussion about her personal legacy and how she created the vision for her foundation. The session ended with each of the senior leaders developing a personal vision for their legacy within the District and Corps.

Harris' foundation, Americans for Indian Opportunity, reaches across international boundaries to Native American youth through its Ambassador Program and helps youth engage in their communities as future leaders. Information on the foundation is found at [www.aio.org](http://www.aio.org).

Harris' work is well established and continues to go strong. Her vision is to enhance the future of Native American youth in leadership roles around the world, and she hopes her legacy will be carried on by her daughter, Laura Harris.

## Unit Takes Pride in Burning their Flag



By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

Photo by Jennifer Tyler, White Sands Public Affairs

*Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Geddings holds the colors of the 2nd Engineer Battalion after Battalion Executive Officer Maj. Christian Thomas lit the flag on fire during a ceremony held on White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Nov. 30, 2011. The ceremony commemorates battalion commander Lt. Col. Alarich Zacherle's actions Nov. 30, 1950, at Kunu-ri, during the Korean War.*

### **Every year, the Soldiers of the 2nd Engineer Battalion burn their unit colors.**

To military people, this is shocking. A unit's colors, or flag, is part of the unit's soul. During a change of command the colors pass from the previous commander to the new commander; battle streamers record the unit's history in combat. The colors lead the unit on parade.

To damage, or even just drop the colors is unthinkable. But Nov. 30 every year, the 2nd Engineer Bn. burns its colors in a unique ceremony honoring the battalion's actions in the battle of Kunu-ri during the Korean War. During that battle, the battalion commander ordered the colors burned to prevent it from falling into enemy hands as they were overrun by the

Chinese army.

Retired Lt. Col. Robert Nerhling spoke briefly during the ceremony at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Nov. 30, 2011, noting that he may be the last survivor of those who witnessed the original colors burning, and what he saw 61 years ago was every Soldier's worst nightmare.

In late fall of 1950 Chinese forces surprised and overran U.S. and U.N. troops, including the Eighth Army and the 2nd Infantry Division.

By the last week of November, U.S. and U.N. troops were forced to withdraw south.

The 2nd Engineer Bn., attached to the 2nd Inf. Div., was ordered to hold the town of Kunu-ri protecting the rear and

right flank of the Eighth Army as it retreated. Companies from the battalion were attached to two infantry regiments, the 9th and 38th, to fill gaps in the defending lines.

The lines eventually gave way to brutal assaults by three Chinese divisions. By Nov. 26, after three days of heavy fighting, the number of enemy divisions had grown to five, with more on the way.

On Nov. 29, the battalion received orders to relocate south to Suncheon. But, the Chinese had blocked the road, and the only other escape route was south through a mountain pass. The 2nd Engineer Bn. moved forward to clear a path through the

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obstacle and open the road. Once the road was cleared, the battalion was told to hold the line with the 23rd Infantry Regiment and Battery A, 503rd Field Artillery.

Early Nov. 30, the massive 2nd Inf. Div. convoy began to slowly make its way across the mountain pass through a six-mile gauntlet of Chinese sniper and mortar fire. Within hours, the situation turned from bad to worse, as swarms of Chinese troops engulfed the retreating column.

The battalion was the only unit left to oppose the massive Chinese assault. The engineers successfully held off the enemy long enough for the remainder of the 2nd Inf. Div. to evacuate through the pass.

Unfortunately, by that time the engineers' window of opportunity to escape had closed. At 7:30 p.m., Nov. 30, Col. Alarich Zacherle, battalion commander, ordered all equipment destroyed. Magnesium

grenades were dropped on heavy equipment tracks and engines. Tires were filled with gasoline, thrown inside vehicles and set ablaze.

Zacherle then ordered the battalion colors, its custom-made box, and the 25 combat streamers that adorned it soaked in gasoline and set on fire; he wanted to prevent the Chinese from capturing it as a trophy.

About 30 minutes after Zacherle gave that order, the Chinese forces overran the engineers. Nerhling said that "burning the colors and getting the hell out of there" were the only two things on their minds, but very few escaped. When the battalion regrouped after the battle, just 266 of the original 977 Soldiers remained, including one officer; the rest were killed or captured.

Every year since the mid-1990s, the battalion has held a solemn nighttime ceremony where those actions are recalled and the unit's colors burned.

After Nerhling spoke, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas

Geddings held the colors while Maj. Christian Thomas, the battalion executive officer, set them on fire. Then a partial roll was called, highlighting the immense casualties the battalion suffered.

"No one does what we do. The burning of the colors is a unique event that is known throughout the Army, especially to those who have served in Korea or the 2nd Infantry Division," said Lt. Col. Christopher Benson, former battalion commander. "Our battalion played a significant role in saving an entire division from annihilation. We do it to honor the courage and sacrifice of our veterans, to commemorate their actions and acknowledge the role they played in shaping the history of the 2nd Infantry Division and of Korea. We must never forget our history, or the legacy our veterans left for us to maintain."

## Happy Holidays from Kandahar

*District lawyer Regina Schowalter volunteered for an overseas deployment and spent her holidays in Afghanistan.*

*She said Santa did not forget about her and her fellow workers, though, and made a special appearance to remind them.*

*Despite the warmer than normal temperatures, Santa helped Kandahar feel more like home.*



Photo courtesy of Regina Schowalter

This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 7 (Execute the military program and capitalize on Interagency and International Services opportunities).

## District Happenings

# District Achieves Another First for Tribal Program

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs, and Ron Kneebone, District Tribal Liaison

In the first meeting of its kind, Robert Isenberg and Maj. Seth Wacker, members of the South Pacific Division's 59th Forward Engineering Support Team - Advanced (FEST) joined District Tribal Liaison Ron Kneebone in a visit with representatives of two New Mexico Pueblos Dec. 14 and 15. They met with the Pueblo of Santa Clara and the Pueblo de Cochiti to provide the Native American tribes with critically needed engineering support to address local infrastructure issues and to provide FEST members with real-world training.

Like most small, rural communities, Native American tribes deal with numerous infrastructure challenges on a daily basis. The purpose of these initial meetings with the FEST team was to identify the most urgent infrastructure challenges that these tribes face. Santa Clara identified disruptions in provision of fresh water as the highest priority. Pueblo de Cochiti selected wastewater treatment as their most pressing challenge.

The FEST team is part of the Corps' Field Force Engineering program. Each division has a FEST attached to it. When deployed, the teams work with small, diverse communities who usually have only limited resources. Their normal mission is to provide engineer recommendations to the communities, often in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. They evaluate functions like the sewer, water, environmental impact, academics, trash and technical engineering where they visit.

Working with Native American tribes in the United States is very similar to working with the smaller groups of individuals when the FEST team is deployed. When not deployed, each team maintains continuous training in order to maintain high levels of performance.

The 59th FEST currently has one civil and

one environmental engineer, but a team normally has two civil engineers, a mechanical engineer, an electrical engineer, an environmental engineer and a cartographer. A team also includes a Sgt. 1st Class who is the non-commissioned officer in charge.

According to Wacker, the 59th's full team is expected to be assembled by the time they return to the Albuquerque District in March. At that time, they will meet with both Pueblos again to share their recommendations.

"This initial meeting is a milestone for the Corps; it was the first encounter of the FEST team with any tribal nation," Kneebone said. "The Assistant Secretary of the Army, other FEST teams throughout the country and other Corps tribal liaisons will be closely monitoring this pilot study."

According to Kneebone, if this mission proves successful, it may be extended nationwide to involve the entire FEST program.



Photo by Ronnie Schelby

*Maj. Seth Wacker and Robert Isenberg of the Corps' South Pacific Division's 59th Forward Engineering Support Team - Advanced (center), visit a freshwater site at Santa Clara Pueblo and meet with Adrian Garcia, a Santa Clara tribal member.*

# *Scrutinizing Sediment Deposits at Cochiti*

## **District Contracts for Data to Better Understand Effects of Sedimentation**

By Daniel Paulsen, Wilson & Company, Engineers & Architects, and John Peterson, District Geospatial Coordinator

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cochiti Dam, near Albuquerque, N.M., is one of the 10 largest earthen dams in the United States. The dam is maintained and operated by the Corps' Albuquerque District. More than five miles in length, the dam comprises 65 million cubic yards of earth, and its reservoir is a popular recreational site, providing camping, boating and fishing.

An important purpose for the dam is sediment control. Erosion within the watershed is a major problem in this arid region, exacerbated by historic land use and wildfires. Sediment transported in the Rio Grande is deposited on the riverbed as water flow diminishes. Known as "aggradation," this results in an elevation increase of the riverbed. Unless constrained by levees, aggradation can cause widening of the river channel and overflowing of the riverbank.

Ironically, "degradation," river scouring and lack of sediment deposition, is a problem of concern in the Albuquerque area. Monitoring and management of fluvial sedimentation is a principle responsibility of both the Corps and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Along with other dams in the watershed, Cochiti Dam serves as a "sediment trap" and is thus a critical component to region-wide sediment management efforts.

Paradoxically, the effectiveness of the dam for sediment control has led to a serious issue confronting the reservoir—sediment deposition is reducing reservoir storage capacity and causing significant aggradation upstream within the Rio Grande channel. Monitoring sediment volume, spatial distribution and rate of deposition is of paramount concern to the District. Consequences for the operation and life expectancy of Cochiti Dam and Reservoir are at stake.

Because any hydrologic modeling and proposed remedial measures must be based on accurate, empirical geospatial information, the District contracted the services of Wilson & Company, Engineers & Architects, to perform professional survey, mapping and geospatial information services to support management of Cochiti Dam and Reservoir. The Area of Interest, or AOI, includes the region occupied by the dam and reservoir, Cochiti Pueblo lands below the dam and the Rio Grande and White Rock Canyon several miles upstream of the reservoir.

Of particular interest to the District was the potential to use aerial photography acquired before construction of the dam in 1965. If available, photogrammetric techniques could be used to digitize features, such as the historic river

channel, and compile a Digital Terrain Model (DTM) of pre-dam topography for comparative analysis. This pre-dam data would provide baseline geospatial information against which post-dam data and bathymetry could be compared. The District hoped the comparison would yield visual, graphical and quantitative information about the volume and spatial distribution of sediment deposition since the dam was completed.

### **Does historical geospatial data exist?**

The University of New Mexico had done preliminary research on the availability of historical aerial photography and discovered photography was acquired in October 1963 by the U.S. Forest Service. Wilson & Company photogrammetrists determined this photography was suitable for pre-dam mapping of the AOI. The photography was collected with a calibrated metric aerial camera and had the requisite coverage and scale for photogrammetric mapping.

The District and Wilson & Company were also aware of additional historic geospatial data obtained over several years by the Corps, as well as other images

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stored in Wilson & Company archives.

### Using historical data to see the big picture

The pre-dam aerial photography supported DTM compilation for 5-foot contour accuracy, when combined with camera calibration data and ground control in an aerotriangulation solution. Aerial negatives were scanned for use in digital photogrammetric workstations. Existing ground control used to support aerial mapping in 2000 and 2004 was photo transferred to the pre-dam photography. It was determined that additional ground control was required around the periphery of the AOI.

In 2010, Wilson & Company dispatched survey crews to derive coordinates for additional photo identifiable features. These

features needed to be identifiable at the time of survey and on the pre-dam photography, creating a unique challenge for the photogrammetrists and surveyors.

DTM, infrastructure and hydrologic features like roads, the river channel and dams, were digitized for the AOI from the 1963 photography and for the dam and reservoir area from later photography. This mapping provided data for baseline geospatial information.

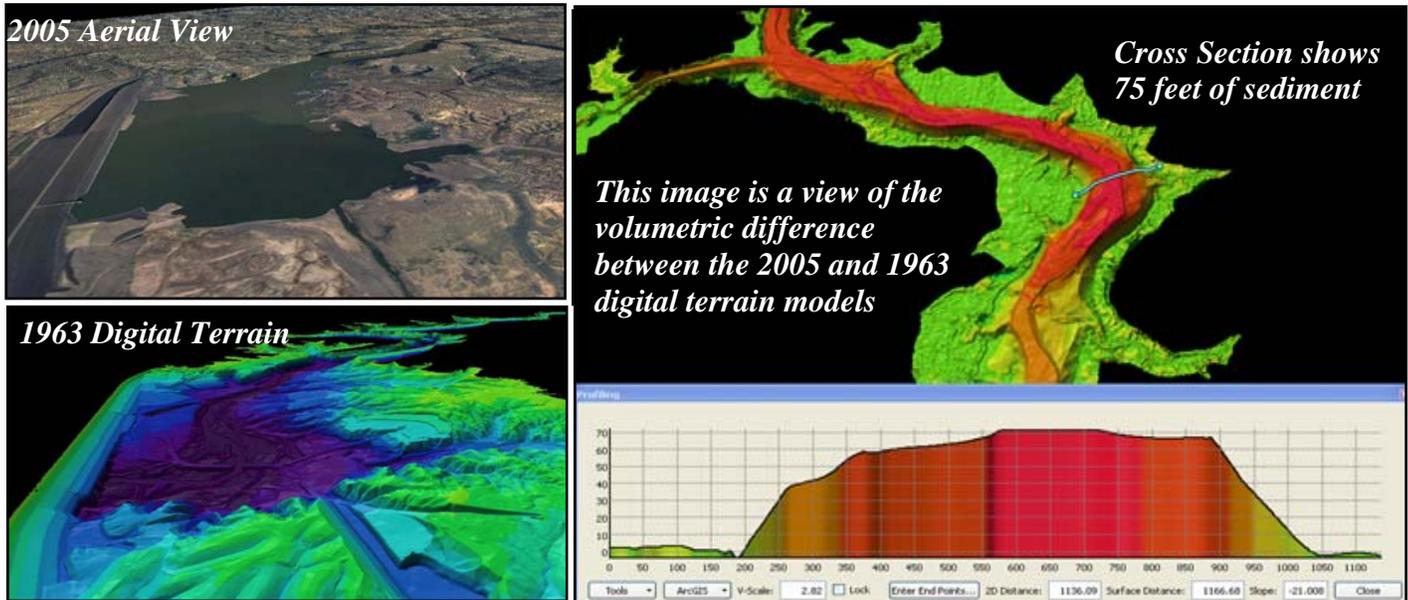
One interesting input was from July 1987 when Cochiti Reservoir filled to the highest pool elevation in its history. At 5,435 feet above sea level, this elevation was below design maximum pool elevation of 5,482 feet, but considerably higher than normal pool elevation of 5,335 feet. Digital orthophotos were created from aerial photography taken at the time to document the event.

### Delivery to the Corps

Final deliverables included a temporal geo-database that included survey control, contours, DTM, ArcTINs, bathymetry, infrastructure, water and hydrology data, as well as orthophotos of multiple dates. Metadata was carefully prepared to thoroughly document the multiplicity of dates, scales, resolutions, ground control, technologies and methodologies utilized for this composite geospatial project.

Quantitative comparisons show maximum sediment accumulation of 75 feet occurs in the river upstream of the reservoir, increasing river baseline elevation significantly over historic conditions. Sediment deposition continues upstream for several miles before tapering off. These figures refer to change in river surface elevation, since only

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Comparisons of pre-dam and post-dam aerial photography, as well as other data inputs, helped determine sediment accumulation of 75 feet occurs in the river upstream of the reservoir.

Graphics courtesy of John Peterson

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Graphics courtesy of John Peterson

this can be derived from aerial photography. The river depth averages 3 to 5 feet in most of the AOI and is not significant relative to total sediment depth.

### Use of information by District

In addition to providing geospatial information, analysis of these temporal DTM's by District hydrologists will clarify spatial deposition patterns of sedimentation. Various hydrology-oriented software applications exist to further quantify and visualize this phenomenon. Hydrologic flow modeling and forecasting can be augmented. Additional ancillary geospatial data such as sediment core sampling and historic land use can be geo-referenced and interactively viewed. This data will provide a base layer for a program being designed by the District for use by all resource management agencies involved with the Rio Grande and its watershed above and below Cochiti Dam.

### Recent events affecting resource



*Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar held a meeting Jan. 5 to discuss conservation and recreation in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, and District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams spoke about projects that are underway involving the Corps and partner agencies.*

*The discussion focused on ways to strengthen existing conservation efforts and how people can work together on additional ideas for river restoration, connecting urban populations to the outdoors and cultural preservation.*

*"There are excellent examples of conservation success stories in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, including the Rio Grande Valley State Park, the Albuquerque Biological Park, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's Paseo del Bosque Trail, the Bosque Del Apache and Seville National Wildlife Refuges and the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail," Salazar said.*

During the summer of 2011, a wildfire ravaged the watershed upstream of Cochiti Reservoir. The fire consumed 150,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest, Bandelier National Monument and surrounding Pueblo and private lands. Subsequent torrential rains caused flash floods that flushed sediment and debris into the Rio Grande

and Cochiti Reservoir. These floods caused considerable damage and compounded the effect of previous sediment deposition.

Wilson & Company collected data from the flooding that will provide valuable new information for ongoing geospatial mapping.

## What Some in the District Were Given or Gave During the Holidays

**At Right**—Employees in the Trinidad Lake project office in Trinidad, Colo., were excited to get a very large present this year, a new backhoe. Pictured with the present (L to R) are: Traci Robb, John Hoffman, Jesse Gutierrez, Rick Torres and Bernadine Cisneros.



USACE photos



**At Left**—The Durango Regulatory Office employees decided to give to the local Manna Soup Kitchen's Christmas Gift Tree. Each employee brought in a gift to benefit the community. Pictured (L to R) are Diana Robb, Hildreth Cooper and Christopher Wrbas.



**At Right**—Project Manager Tim Kreitinger, deployed to Afghanistan, got a few minutes to rest at one of his project sites during the holidays. He said he spent the time thinking of Old El Paso and Salsa dancing, and us at home, of course.



**Above**—Employees working on the New Mexico National Guard hanger project near Santa Fe, N.M., gave District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams a tour to review progress. In the photo are Project Engineer Kerry Horner, Lt. Col. Williams and the N.M. Guard's project manager, Capt. Wilbert Archuleta.

## Nearly 20 Bald Eagles Spotted at Abiquiu During Annual Event

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Abiquiu Lake hosted its annual midwinter eagle watch Jan. 7, and it was a record count for both eagles, 17, and volunteers, 61.

Employees were surprised when nearly twice as many volunteers arrived to participate as the previous record and when seeing nine mature and eight immature Bald Eagles.

“We weren’t expecting as many eagles this year, due to the warmer weather which allows the eagles to stay up north longer,” said Acting Lake Operations Manager Eric Garner.

“It was great to see some folks participate who saw an eagle in the wild for the first time.”

District employees who helped with the event were Eric Garner, Philip Martinez, Austin Kuhlman, Nick Bailey, Albert Branch, Roger Apodaca and Paul Branch.

Since 1984, the National Wildlife Federation has asked participants in each state to count eagles along standard routes to provide data trends. The basic objectives of the survey are to index the total wintering Bald Eagle population in the lower 48 states, to determine eagle distribution during a standardized survey period and to identify previously unrecognized areas of important winter habitat.



*Look for a video version of this story on our website at <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil>*

The survey represents a unique source of long-term, baseline data. Unlike nesting surveys, it provides information on both breeding and non-breeding segments of the population at a potentially limiting time of year. In addition to providing information on eagle trends, distribution and habitat, the count has helped to create public interest in the conservation of Bald Eagles.

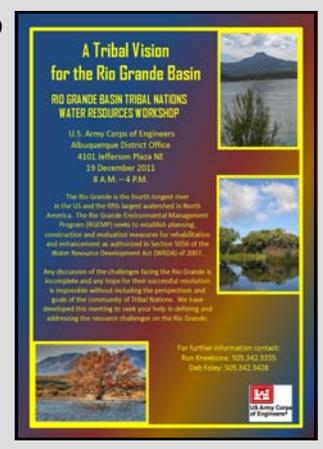
The Corps plays a significant role in recovery efforts of the Bald Eagle by supporting eagle conservation, including breeding season and midwinter surveys, management of habitat, education and outreach. For more information on the eagle watch or about Abiquiu Lake, call the project office at 505-685-4371.

## District Hosts Rio Grande Basin Water Resources Workshop

On Dec. 19, representatives from Native American Tribes around New Mexico braved inclement weather to attend a Rio Grande Basin Water Resources Workshop for Tribal Nations. Participants shared their visions, views and challenges regarding the Rio Grande, which is the fourth longest river in the U.S. and the fifth largest watershed in North America.

The Rio Grande is listed as one of the most endangered river systems in the world. The Rio Grande Environmental Management Program seeks to address these challenges through planning, construction and evaluation measures.

There are plans underway to hold additional meetings with stakeholders in coming months.



## District Employees Interact with Racing Fans in Arizona

*Employees in the Environmental Project Management Section attended the Lucas Oil Off-Road Racing event at the Firebird Raceway in Phoenix Dec. 10 and 11 to help raise awareness about the perils of unexploded ordnance that remain today at several formerly used defense sites, or FUDS, in the Southwest.*

*Brian Jordan, Sonny Franks and Trent Simpler joined FUDS mascot Sgt. Woof in welcoming fans and explaining their cause.*

*“Sgt. Woof is instrumental in getting the public to the booth and enabling us to pass on our safety messages,” Franks said. “As usual, we brought plastic, inert ordnance to display, maps, brochures and children-focused items. We were able to put ‘Recognize, Retreat, Report’ stickers on some racing vehicles.”*



### Boating Safety!

Employees in Operations attended the 2012 New Mexico RV, Boat and Travel Show in Albuquerque Jan. 6 to 8 to provide information on boating and water safety. The event was done in cooperation with the Coast Guard, N.M. Tourism Department and N.M. State Parks. The booth was coordinated by Kathleen Bennett and staffed by Kelly Allen, Rebecca Miner, Mark Rosacker, Nicholas Bailey, Robert Mumford and Austin Kuhlman.

“Interestingly, this was the 2012 boat show, and we calculated that a total of 2012 people visited the booth and spoke to us during the three-day event,” Bennett said.



# District Employee is Code Talker's Grandchild

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez proclaimed Jan. 7, 2012, as "Keith Little Day." Little passed away at age 87 in Fort Defiance, Ariz., Jan. 3. He was one of four surviving Navajo Code Talkers.



Chaco

Approximately 10 years ago, Little's granddaughter, Malinda Chaco, project assistant at the Corps' Cochiti Lake, learned he was a World War II Code Talker.

"He never talked about himself being a Code Talker," Chaco said. "According to other Code Talkers,

the information was classified until 1968 when the codes were made public. Even then, he really never talked about the war around me."

At the beginning of World War II, the Allies had a communication crisis: the Japanese were breaking every code used. Increasingly complex codes were developed, however, they required hours of encryption and decryption for a single message. The military was looking for a more efficient way to disguise codes.

Enter Phillip Johnston, a civilian living in California. As the son of a Protestant missionary, Johnston had grown up on the Navajo reservation and was one of less than 30 outsiders fluent in Navajo. With no alphabet at the time and the difficulty non-native speakers had learning the language, it was a perfect choice as an indecipherable code. After an impressive demonstration to top commanders, he was given permission to begin a Navajo Code Talker test program in early 1942.

Chaco said that according to her relatives, her grandfather, Keith Little, left the reservation when he was 10 to attend boarding school. He enlisted in the Marines when he was 17 and became one of hundreds of Navajos trained as a Code Talker.

According to the governor's proclamation, when asked why he enlisted, "Little would always answer 'because the Japanese made a sneak attack on the United States...and I wanted to protect our people and our land..."

*In Honored Memory Of*



Photos courtesy of Malinda Chaco

*Keith M. Little*

*March 4, 1924 - January 3, 2012*

not only my Navajo Nation, but my country, the United States of America."

The Code Talkers quickly earned a reputation for their remarkable abilities. In the field, they were not allowed to write down any part of the code, thus they became living codes. Even under extreme battle conditions, they had to rapidly recall every word of a message with precision or risk hundreds or thousands of lives. In the first 48 hours of the battle for Iwo Jima they coded more than 800 transmissions with perfect accuracy.

After the war, Chaco said that Little lived in Crystal, N.M., in the heart of the Navajo Nation near the Arizona-New Mexico border. He was a loving family man, successful rancher and passionate advocate for preserving his Navajo heritage and language. She also recalls fond memories of him lecturing "the grandchildren to know their native language and to never forget because the Navajo language is sacred to him."

Little was the longtime president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association and spoke regularly on the preservation of Navajo traditions.

# News Briefs—News Briefs—News Briefs—News Briefs

## Two More Days to File 2011 Taxes

The IRS is giving taxpayers two extra days to get their taxes turned in this year.

While Tax Day typically falls on April 15, the IRS announced Jan. 4 that it is pushing back this year's filing deadline to Tuesday, April 17.

The extension was granted because April 15 falls on a Sunday this year, and Monday is Emancipation Day, a holiday in Washington D.C., that celebrates the freeing of slaves in the district. Last year, Tax Day was extended until April 18, also thanks to Emancipation Day.

The IRS will also begin accepting returns submitted online through the agency's e-filing system -- which the IRS says is the fastest, most accurate filing option for taxpayers -- on Jan. 17.

If you are requesting an extension, you have until Oct. 15 to file your 2011 tax return, the agency said.

## HQ's Web Migrated

The new website for headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is up and running at [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil), as of Jan. 10. During the next several weeks, it is expected that quality checks and tweaks will be made, as well as the continuous loading of content.

The look and feel of this

site will be the same as what the District is transitioning to in a few months. The change will create consistent branding and navigation on public web pages across the Corps, streamline the content management process and deliver a rich end-user experience. For more information, contact Public Affairs at 505-342-3171.

## USACE Publishes Sustainable Solutions

For more than 230 years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been a leader in developing and managing water resources in the United States. To accomplish its mission and translate its vision into reality, USACE has published its new

"Sustainable Solutions to America's Water Resources Needs: Civil Works Strategic Plan 2011-2015." The plan lays out an overarching Integrated Water Resources Management strategy that embraces a holistic focus on water resource challenges and opportunities, and reflects coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources.

A focus of the plan is to build and sustain partnerships at all levels and leverage authorities, resources, talent, data and research from multiple agencies and organizations.

For more information: <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Sustainability.aspx>

## Finance Corner



It's that time again for the annual Managers' Internal Control Program, or MICP.

**Guidance:** AR 11-2 and OPOD 2011-68 (FY12 MICP)

**Purpose:** To identify and manage risks in the areas of financial reporting, financial systems, fund control and non-financial operations via the use of routine analysis and checks that ensure the appropriate internal controls are in place and operating properly to mitigate those risks.

**Who:** Designated functional areas, local and national.

**How:** Key controls and checklists are to be completed January through March 2012 at the District.

**Requirements:** Anyone who completes a key control or checklist is required to complete MICP training every two years. The training will be a PowerPoint-type presentation.

**Outcome:** An annual Statement of Assurance signed by the commander vouching for the District's status.

**Primary Internal Control Administrator:** Greg Allen in Resource Management. **Alternate:** Debra Gallegos in RM.