

UPDATE

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2004

Southwestern Honored for Outstanding E-Government

In a ceremony held August 4, 2004 at Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham honored Southwestern for its "outstanding contributions in the expanded E-government area of the President's Management Agenda."



L-R: OMB DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT CLAY JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF ENERGY SPENCER ABRAHAM, PMLO DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR JON WORTHINGTON, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY KYLE McSLARROW RECOGNIZE SOUTHWESTERN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR OUTSTANDING E-GOVERNMENT.

Jon Worthington, Southwestern's Deputy Assistant Administrator from the Power Marketing Liaison Office (PMLO), accepted a plaque from Abraham on the agency's behalf.

"Southwestern Power Administration is a small agency with limited resources, but it is consistently recognized as being among DOE's best," says Worthington. "I was honored to accept the award on behalf of Southwestern, but the real honor goes to each Southwestern employee who worked to achieve the award."

E-government encompasses a wide range of initiatives, including the unification of core applications through a secure environment, development of an enterprise architecture, consolidation of resources, enhancement of capital planning and investment control processes, and improvement of cyber security.

"Although E-government is under the umbrella of Information Technology (IT), every Southwestern employee contributed to and earned this award," says Katherine Thomas, Director of the IT Division. "It's easy to find examples of how each employee contributed, and I want to tell them all thank you and congratulations."

Thomas cites the following examples of how Southwestern employees contributed to the award:

- Learning new office tools such as Microsoft Word and Outlook to support the establishment of a standard IT infrastructure.

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The **UPDATE** is published by and for customers, retirees, and employees of Southwestern Power Administration like:



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Special thanks to:
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Ruben Garcia
Larry Harp
Darlene Low
Jerry Martin
Beth Nielsen
Jim Sherwood
Rutha Williams
Jon Worthington

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- Stepping out of their “comfort zone,” such as when former Budget Officer Bobbi Sigworth worked with IT to complete Enterprise Architecture requirements.
- Promptly responding to IT’s request to identify and account for all software and/or systems used at Southwestern.
- Utilizing IT business practices that follow new policies and procedures, like configuration management.
- Completing annual cyber security training.
- Working together to complete the Certification and Accreditation of Southwestern’s systems to meet cyber security requirements.
- Using the Help Desk to submit work orders to IT.

Thomas also had high praise for employees in her own organization and for Southwestern management, saying that their support and hard work were key in making the achievement possible. “By standing behind IT and helping us meet our deadlines, management continues to demonstrate their commitment to implementing the President’s Management Agenda for Expanding E-government.”

Guest speakers at the nearly hour-long event included Clay Johnson, Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Kay James, Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Linda Springer, Controller of OMB.

According to PMLO staff members who attended the event, one of the lighter moments during the ceremony came when Clay Johnson presented Spencer Abraham a Kermit the Frog stuffed animal encased in a glass case. Johnson said he was honoring DOE for achieving “green” status on the E-government initiative. 🐸



New Engineering Director Looks to Make a Difference

Southwestern welcomed Larry Harp, Director of the Division of Engineering and Planning, to his first day on the job July 26, 2004. Harp, a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Tulsa District, says he is looking forward to making a difference at Southwestern.

“I had a long and enjoyable career with the Corps, and now I’m looking forward to a long second career at Southwestern. I was fortunate enough to make a positive impact at the Corps and I hope to be able to make a similar impact here.”

Harp began his career with the Corps straight out of the University of Arkansas in 1974, when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering. He says he’s been working specifically in the hydropower area since 1981, when he became involved in Operations and Maintenance of Corps civil works projects.

He was named Chief of the Hydropower Section at the Tulsa District in 1999, and says during his time in the position, he and his support staff worked to improve the reliability of the hydropower system. “During the time that I was responsible for the eight powerplants in the Tulsa District, many improvements were accomplished as a result of the Corps, Southwestern, and the power customers working together.”

Harp and his wife, Sandy, reside in the Tulsa area and are the proud parents of two daughters, Carrie and Michelle, who also call Tulsa home. He says that Carrie, a third-year medical student at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, is staying particularly busy with school and with plans for her upcoming marriage to a fellow medical student next spring.

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SPARKS OF INTEREST



**BRIG. GEN.
ROBERT CREAR**

Southwestern Power Resources Association's Quarterly Meeting will be held September 14-16, 2004, at the Radisson Resort in Port Isabel, Texas. For registration and meeting information, contact Barbara DelGrosso at 918-622-7800.

Brigadier General Robert Crear assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Mississippi Valley Division on June 23, 2004. Born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Crear graduated in 1975 from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Regular Army commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Corps. He holds a Master's Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Previous assignments include Commander of the Corps' Southwestern Division and Commander of the Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil (RIO) during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



**COL. JEFFREY
DORKO**

Colonel Jeffrey Dorko became the 32nd Commander and Division Engineer of the Corps' Southwestern Division on June 21, 2004. Dorko graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1978. He later received a Master's Degree in Construction Management from The George Washington University and a Master's Degree in National Security Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Before assuming command of the Southwestern Division, he served as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. Other past commands have brought him to Fort Hood, Texas; Ludwigsburg and Schweinfurt Germany; Washington, D.C.; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



**COL. MICHAEL
ROSSI**

The Corps' Kansas City District welcomed new Commander Colonel Michael Rossi on July 29, 2004. A native of Northern California, Rossi was commissioned in 1982 as an Engineer Officer from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor's degree in Science. He holds a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Master's Degree in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University. His most recent assignment was as Engineer Officer Branch Chief, U.S. Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Virginia. Previous assignments include stints in Hanau and Bad Kreuznach, Germany; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Ft. Bliss, Texas.



**COL. ANTHONY
VESAY**

Colonel Anthony Vesay assumed command of the Corps' Vicksburg District on June 30, 2004. Vesay is a distinguished military graduate of Penn State University (PSU) and holds a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from PSU and a Master's Degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. Previous assignments include positions with the Corps' Norfolk District, with the U.S. Atlantic Command, with the Pentagon, and with the U.S. force in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope.



**COL. WALLY
WALTERS**

July 23, 2004, marked the first day of command for Little Rock District Division Engineer and Commander Wally Walters. Walters is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He holds a Master's Degree in International Relations from The George Washington University, a Master's Degree in Military Studies from the Marine Corps University, a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and a Master's Degree in Political Science from Columbia University. He has traveled or worked in over sixty countries, including Russia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Korea. Domestic assignments include postings to Virginia, Washington, D.C., Washington State, Hawaii, and many other locations within the U.S.

Welcome Back, Pat!

By Jerry Martin



FIRST IMPRESSIONS: PAT BOONE POSES WITH HER MILITARY ESCORTS. SHE SAYS SHE WAS SURPRISED BY THE NUMBER OF TREES AND MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Boone's first impressions were of a varied terrain and an abundant military presence. She recalls assuming that her aircraft would land at a major airport, but as it turned out, she and other volunteers did not deplane at a major terminal. Rather, as they stepped down the gangway into what Boone describes as surprisingly cool January air, she and the others saw that they



A PAINTING IN A ROOM REFERRED TO AS THE CHAPEL IN THE PALACE WHERE BOONE WORKED.

were on the other side of the field and the terminal was simply a tent. After that registered, Boone says she took time to look around and was a bit surprised to see trees, and quite a few of them. She had expected little more than sand and dirt. A short time later, during her processing, she took notice of and was impressed by the number of military personnel. Not only were there uniforms everywhere, but the level of aerial activity was astounding. The sky seemed literally full of aircraft, and the buzzing of helicopters was everywhere.

For the first three weeks, Pat was billeted in a presidential palace, where she worked, slept, and ate. In Pat's words, "The palace was something you would have to see to believe. The level of opulence and luxury was far beyond

Southwestern Security Specialist Pat Boone recently returned from a six month tour of duty in Iraq, and was asked to share some of her thoughts and impressions.

Boone first began to think about going to Iraq in October of 2003 when an e-mail calling for volunteers was circulated by Southwestern's Human Resources Office. Somewhat intrigued by the idea from the very first, she thought about it, and the more she thought about it, the more the idea appealed to her. As she put it, "Here was an opportunity to witness first hand the situation in Iraq, to have a little adventure, and to make a contribution to the freedom of the Iraqi people."

When asked what the deciding factor was in her decision to apply, Pat replies, "Actually, there wasn't just one thing. The entire idea appealed to me. I would be going somewhere I have never been, doing something that mattered for someone else, and helping secure an opportunity for a better life for the Iraqi people."



THE ELECTRICAL SECTOR WHERE BOONE WORKED WAS HOUSED IN ONE OF SADDAM HUSSEIN'S MANY FORMER PALACES.



A MODEL WAREHOUSE: BOONE'S WAREHOUSE STAFF AND PROCEDURES WERE OFTEN CITED BY COMMAND PERSONNEL AS "HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE."

restore and upgrade the country's power system. Working with both military and civilian personnel, 12-14 hours a day, 7 days a week, to facilitate the turnover to the new Iraqi government by June, she received requests, approved budgets, tracked contracts, expedited purchases, and coordinated deliveries of a wide variety of materials. She supervised the activities of a warehouse and trained Iraqis in proper warehouse procedures. Pat comments with some pride that her warehouse was recognized as a model warehouse. It was the one that command personnel pointed out as "how it should be done."

Boone says that, whenever possible, contracts for goods and services were awarded to native Iraqis. She says she feels absolutely certain that most of the Iraqi people, certainly those she dealt with on a daily basis, are definitely happy with the U.S. presence, although those Iraqis who are working for or doing business with the coalition forces face the constant threat of retribution against themselves and their families from militant Iraqi insurgents.

Boone also wants to make very clear how very proud she is of our U.S. military personnel. She says she is extremely impressed by our men and women in uniform and is convinced that, despite what comes to us from the news media, a lot of good things are being done by U.S. forces as well as by native Iraqis and other members of the coalition.

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what I could have ever imagined. It was something out of a fantasy, a gold-plated fairy tale. I remember thinking how incomprehensible it was that Hussein had lived like this when most of the people in his country were struggling to make ends meet. It reinforced my conviction that I had done the right thing in volunteering to go there." Subsequently, she moved out of the palace into a trailer where she was quartered for the remainder of her tour. The trailer was roughly 8'x15', accommodated two people, and thankfully, was air-conditioned.

Originally, Boone went to Iraq to do security work, but within a very short time was reassigned as a Senior Procurement Specialist. In this capacity, she worked with the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity to



TRAVELING C-130 STYLE: BOONE DESCRIBES THE DESCENT INTO IRAQ AS NAUSEATING BECAUSE THE PLANE DESCENDS IN A CORKSCREW PATTERN TO AVOID ENEMY FIRE. SHE SAYS, "THERE IS NO BEVERAGE SERVICE OR FOOD CART, AND YOU HAD BETTER GO BEFORE TAKEOFF BECAUSE THERE IS NO WALKING FREELY ABOUT IN THIS CABIN; SPACE IS REALLY TIGHT."

The ABCs of CPR & AEDs:

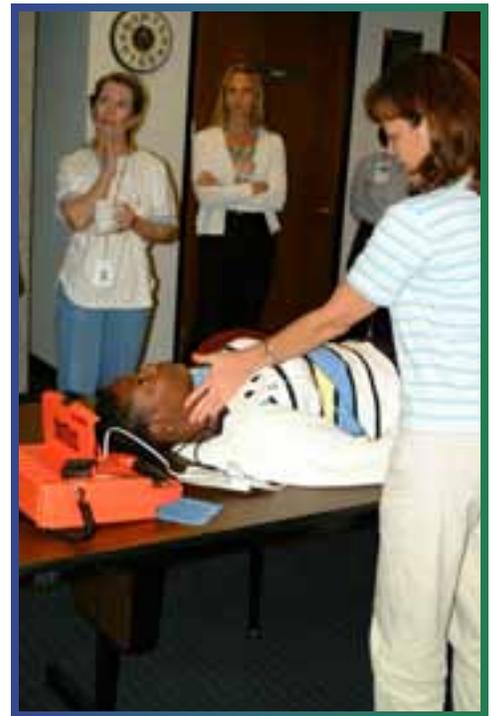
Training in TLC

A number of Tulsa employees participated in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid training on Wednesday, July 28, 2004. The training was sponsored by Southwestern's Office of Corporate Facilities Services.

The half-day session, taught by Oklahoma City Firefighter and Paramedic Bill Justice, covered the principles of administering basic first aid and CPR, as well as using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to resuscitate cardiac arrest victims. Participants also got to apply "hands-on" techniques to practice the life-saving skills they learned during class.

"Like most safety training, CPR is something you hope you never have to use," says Darlene Low, Special Assistant, Aviation, Environmental, Safety, and Health, who coordinated the session with the help of Human Resources Support Service Assistant Beverly Yenter. "But good training can mean the difference between life and death on those rare occasions when something goes wrong or some accident occurs."

According to the American Heart Association and other health-care organizations, the first three to five minutes are crucial after a person's breathing and/or heartbeat has stopped because of an accident or some other trauma. By following the ABCs taught in CPR and First Aid Training – Airway, Breathing, Circulation – bystanders who administer CPR can greatly improve the survival chances of the victim by minimizing brain damage and restoring circulation to the body's vital organs.



BETH NIELSEN CHECKS THE PULSE OF VOLUNTEER VICTIM NIECEY BRYANT AS JAN WOOLVERTON AND STEPHANIE BRADLEY AWAIT THEIR TURN.



INSTRUCTOR BILL JUSTICE DEMONSTRATES LIFE-SAVING TECHNIQUES TO TULSA EMPLOYEES DURING ON-SITE CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING.

Darlene Low wants to make sure that Southwestern does its part in maintaining those impressive statistics, for Oklahoma and for Southwestern's other offices in Gore, Jonesboro, and Springfield.

"We offer CPR and First Aid training periodically at all Southwestern sites," Low says. "It just shows the commitment of Southwestern's management and workers to being prepared for emergencies and learning how to respond when called upon." 🙏

The use of AEDs, machines that use computers to evaluate a victim's heart rhythm, can also greatly improve survival rates. At the scene of an incident, the rescuer places electrode pads on the victim's chest and follows the instructions of the AED to either continue monitoring the victim or else administer an electric shock to restore regular heart rhythm. The National Institutes of Health report that most people in ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrest will survive if they receive the electric shock within three minutes.

Instructor Bill Justice says living in Oklahoma is a particular plus for those who may be candidates for cardiac arrest. "Tulsa and Oklahoma City are among the top ten cities in the nation in survivor rates according to a study done by *USA Today* last fall. That means if you go into ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrest here, you're more likely to survive than in other cities."

Rate Proposal Process Is Well Underway

The process to implement a proposed increase of approximately 8% in Southwestern's Integrated System (IS) rates is well underway with the close of the formal consultation and comment period September 2, 2004.

According to Jim Sherwood, Director of the Division of Rates and Repayment, the next step is to address all issues raised during the comment period.

"We try to incorporate the comments and suggestions of Southwestern's customers and other interested parties into our rate design as best we can," Sherwood says. "We often receive valuable insight into how Southwestern's rate-making process can be improved. In the past, we've incorporated suggestions that resulted in benefits to Southwestern as well as to our customers themselves, which is the kind of win-win situation we're always looking for."

After addressing the issues raised during the comment period, Southwestern must submit the proposal to the Department of Energy (DOE), where it will be reviewed by Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSarrow for interim approval to be effective January 1, 2005.

After DOE approves the rate proposal, it will be forwarded to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which has final approval authority of Southwestern's rates. FERC will first conduct a 30-day comment period, review the proposal in light of comments received, and then render its decision regarding the proposal.

Because the entire process may take well over a year, Southwestern's rate proposal is expected to be approved on an interim basis effective January 1, 2005, with final approval received from FERC at some later date.👍



**"HAIL AND FAREWELL" GET-TOGETHERS
FEATURED COLORFUL AND TASTY FOOD WITH
A LOCAL FLAIR.**

official praised Boone and Southwestern's other volunteer Glenn Eckel, saying that the two were "a credit to the organization, and Southwestern should be very proud of the way they performed and represented the agency." The official went on to say that Boone and Eckel had "played an instrumental role as part of the team and they hated to see them leave."

When asked if she would do it all over again, Pat replies that not only would she do it again...she plans to! She has already applied to go back and is expecting orders within the next 30 days or so. This time, her tour could be from 12 to 18 months. That in itself is good testimony that Pat Boone is proud of her time in Iraq and what she accomplished there.👍

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Was it all work and no play? Pat gives a "qualified" yes. However, she does admit to really enjoying the monthly "Hail and Farewell" get togethers that were held next to the palace pool once a month.

Administrator Mike Deihl, who was presented an Iraqi flag by Boone upon her return, says that shortly after she got back, he spoke to a top official in charge of the work Boone and other volunteers performed. The



**BOONE FELT COMFORTED KNOWING THE SAME
MOON SHONE OVER FRIENDS AT HOME.**

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His other daughter, Michelle, and his wife, Sandy, are both involved in the field of Education, Michelle as an elementary school teacher, and Sandy as an administrator in the High School guidance office for the Jenks School District.

Harp says he and wife Sandy work on many different projects together in their leisure time, including discovering and refinishing antique furniture. They also enjoy traveling to vacation spots such as Las Vegas and Branson.

Harp says he hopes to meet and exceed everyone's expectations at Southwestern. "The Corps and Southwestern are both excellent organizations. I owe my success at the Corps to a good support staff, and I know I'll have excellent support here at Southwestern as well."👍

NEW EMPLOYEES

ROBERT DACUS

ELECTRICIAN

**DIVISION OF JONESBORO/GORE
TRANSMISSION MAINTENANCE**

LARRY HARP

DIRECTOR

**DIVISION OF ENGINEERING
AND PLANNING**

KEVIN OVERHOLT

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

**DIVISION OF JONESBORO/GORE
TRANSMISSION MAINTENANCE**

RETIREMENTS

BOB PURNELL

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SPECIALIST

**DIVISION OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

WATTS INSIDE?



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Award for E-Gov
Excellence**

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Engineering**

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Track**

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