



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

Corps Bytes

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The Corps of Engineers Leads, Feeds and Apple Seeds is a monthly release that highlights what the U.S. Army Corps' New York District is doing in *your* backyard.

December Highlights

- **CA Wildfires receive relief from Corps team.**
- **Real estate heating up.**
- **Battling the burn.**
- **Just checking.**
- **Should I stay or should I go?**
- **We pledge to dredge.**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the nation's premier building organization involved in soil remediation, military construction projects, beach nourishment, dredging, and keeping the harbor free from obstructions to navigation.

Leads: From dredging to military construction, this is the section that provides story ideas concerning projects being managed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, New York District.

CA Wildfires receive relief from Corps Team. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to assist FEMA in their southern California wildfire recovery efforts. The team is being coordinated by a GIS action officer in the Corps' New York District who is deploying team members from various Corps districts out to the west coast to identify adversely impacted areas, locate damaged structures and track fires. For more information contact JoAnne Castagna 917-790-8219.

Click link for a photo of a GIS Map created by the Corps of Engineers
<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/harbor/bytes/graphics/dec07/gis.jpg>

Real estate heating up. From the cold of Fort Drum to the warmth of Miami, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been working hard with the military housing market. Ending in fiscal year 2007, the Corps has inspected over 1700 housing units that are due to come off lease in the Fort Drum area. Brick by brick, shrub by shrub, the Corps has been assessing damages that exceed reasonable wear and tear to ensure that the housing is returned to the lessors in good condition. The need for immediate officer housing is great in this area, and the Corps is continuing its commitment to the military families and their quality of life. For more information about the Corps' commitment to military families and their quality of life contact Mary Stavina at 917-790-8106.

Battling the burn. Throughout history, events have shown that one of the most devastating natural phenomenon known to man is fire however, the inability to properly fight fires can be even more dangerous. That's why Picatinny Arsenal, with help from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, took the first step toward making sure their firefighters have the best chance to combat fires and other disaster-related missions by breaking ground on a state-of-the-art fire station. The Picatinny Fire and Emergency Service Division provides installation fire-suppression, fire prevention and first responder services for medical emergencies and hazardous material incidents. Personnel are also involved in mutual-aid agreements with several surrounding municipalities and Morris County that require response to emergency calls outside the installation's gates. This new fire station will make accomplishing all of these missions a little easier. For more information, contact Ken Wells at 917-790-8109.

Click link for a photo of the Picatinny Arsenal Fire Station groundbreaking
<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/harbor/bytes/graphics/dec07/battling.jpg>

Feeds: Curious about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers history? Or maybe gee whiz facts are your cup of tea? Either way, you'll find them in the feeds section.

The Corps of Engineers Built NASA Facilities? Soon after the advent of the Apollo space program in 1961, the newly formed National Aeronautics and Space Administration approached the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for design and construction assistance. One of the Corps' most challenging assignments was the construction of the vehicle assembly building at the John F. Kennedy Space Center on the east coast of Florida. Responsibility for the project initially was given to the Jacksonville District and then, in 1963, was passed on to the newly established Canaveral District. Built for the Apollo program, the VAB was the hub of launch operations at the space center. Designed to house the assembly and final checkout of the 363-foot-tall Saturn V launch vehicle, the vehicle assembly building enabled engineers to assemble the rocket in a protected, climate-controlled environment. At the time of its construction the VAB was the largest building in the world, enclosing 128 million cubic feet of space, three times the volume of the Empire State Building.

Apple Seeds: This is the section where planting the seeds of hard work and determination yield positive results for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Just checking. Every year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District inspects flood damage reduction projects throughout its area of responsibility. Most Corps projects are turned over to the state or local sponsor to operate and maintain, but the Corps inspects them at least annually to ensure they are performing as designed to reduce the damage flood waters could do to lives, homes and businesses. In FY 2007 the District inspected 42 projects including levees, dams, flood walls and other features. All but six projects passed this year's inspection and continue to reduce the risk of damage from flooding in the project area. For more information about Corps of Engineers projects in New York District, or the Inspection of Completed Works program, contact Scott Harris, 917-790-8007.

Should I stay, or should I go? Weather can be unpredictable, but the Passaic River Flood Warning System can help residents and businesses in the 935-square-mile Passaic River basin make their decision. The area is one of the most densely populated river basins in the country with more than 2.5 million people relying on the system's network of 40 rain and stream gages, transmitters, receivers and computer programs. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, and U.S. Geological Survey work together with other federal and state agencies to ensure critical information on water flow and mitigation activities reaches first responders in 132 communities in eight counties. For more information about the Passaic River Flood Warning System, contact Scott Harris, 917-790-8007.

We pledge to dredge. How do you convince thousands of birds, fish and other habitat to relocate from one site to another? The answer is by successfully restoring their natural habitat. That's what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is achieving in concert with various other agencies. The Jamaica Bay Gateway National Recreation Area overlaps the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens and is visited by millions each year. It's home to a variety of wildlife species, including migratory birds and fish nurseries. Ninety percent of the Jamaica Bay marsh islands have degraded since colonial times, and the remaining acres of islands are disappearing at a rate of 44 acres per year, faster in the last decade. If the islands are not restored they will be completely lost within the next three decades. For more information about the Elder's Point restoration project, contact Vincent Elias at 917-790-8108/8306.