



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

News Release

Contact: Peter H. Shugert
Phone: (212) 264-1722
E-mail: peter.h.shugert@usace.army.mil
Fax: (212) 264-0614

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2004

Corps sets change of command

O'Dowd to turn command over to Polo in June 3 ceremony

After nearly three years as District Engineer, Col. John B. O'Dowd will relinquish command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District.

Col. Richard J. Polo Jr. will assume command at a ceremony set to begin at 11 a.m. June 3 in the auditorium of the U.S. Customs House, One Bowling Green, New York City.

O'Dowd became the New York District commander in July 2001 after serving as an Army War College Fellow at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston.

Following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, he coordinated Corps of Engineers resources and support for emergency evacuation, search and rescue, fuel re-supply for New York City Fire Department vehicles and boats at the disaster site, emergency dredging to ensure barge access for debris removal, and oversight of the WTC debris terminal and processing facility on Staten Island.

-- more --

Corps sets change of command 2-2-2

As district engineer, the colonel also supervised the military design and construction program for Army, Air Force and Defense Department facilities in New York and New Jersey. This included building facilities for the C-17 aircraft at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; Soldier training facilities for the 10th Infantry Division (Light Mountain) at Fort Drum, N.Y., and extensive rehabilitation and construction at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

New York District's Civil Works program during O'Dowd's tenure included continuing work on the deepening of the Port of New York and New Jersey, the Green Brook Sub-Basin Flood Control Project in central New Jersey, and shore protection projects on Long Island and Staten Island in New York.

A New Jersey native, O'Dowd is a 1978 graduate of West Point. He also earned a master's degree in environmental engineering from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and has completed the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and U.S. Army War College.

O'Dowd's next assignment is to command the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district in Afghanistan.

Polo comes to New York District after graduation from the National War College at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. A 1980 graduate of West Point, he also has earned master's degrees in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., and in national security strategy from the National Defense University at Fort McNair. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

He served as the district engineer at the Corps' Detroit District and as executive officer to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works before entering the National War College.

-- more --

Corps sets change of command 3-3-3

His military service includes duty as a project officer in the Kuwait Emergency Recovery Office during Operation Desert Storm and engineer brigade operations officer in Bosnia as part of Task Force Eagle during Operation Joint Endeavor.

New York District is responsible for the Corps' water resources development, navigation and regulatory activities in northeastern New Jersey, eastern and south-central New York State, and parts of Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. The district is also responsible for design and construction at Army and Air Force installations in New Jersey, New York and Greenland.