



# CONSTELLATION

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## In this issue

**page 6**  
New face in  
Executive  
Office

**page 8**  
Women's  
History  
Month

**page 9**  
Corps em-  
ployee  
adopts  
children

**page 11**  
Gallery of  
Distin-  
guished  
employees

## Spring Valley team to resume Lot 18 work

*By Mary Beth Thompson  
Public Affairs Office*

The Corps plans to re-start digging on an American University parcel called Lot 18 in late May or early June.

The discovery of lewisite among the items recovered from Lot 18 last year has turned what was a low-probability dig into a high-probability dig for the Spring Valley project.

Lewisite is a liquid developed as a chemical weapon for war use. During World War I, the American University Experiment Station was a center of U.S. Army chemical research, development, testing and training.

The experiment station developed methods for the preparation, manufacture and use of lewisite. It operated on and near the campus, on land that is now within the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C. It is a Formerly Used Defense Site that Baltimore District is cleaning up.

Changing from a low-probability of finding chemical warfare material to a high probability means a new work plan must be written, additional safeguards put in place and a higher level of concern for public safety attended to, project manager Craig Georg said.

"That ensures that we have developed our plans to accurately address what could be found," he said.

The team anticipates it will unearth debris, municipal trash and glassware, Georg said. They do not expect to uncover an explosively configured chemical round, but the possibility of finding lewisite again has raised this dig to high-probability.

"We expect to find pretty much what we've found in the past," he said.

"We've been out there before, and we have a site history at this location."

Working with the Engineering and Support Center at Huntsville, the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, and the Edgewood Research and Development

Engineering Center, the Spring Valley project delivery team is writing a work plan and developing a public protection plan for Lot 18.

At the same time, Huntsville has been revamping the Site-Wide Chemical Safety Submission Plan, which covers the entire project and affects the work plan for Lot 18.

One task was to determine a maximum credible event, or MCE,



**Rugged terrain and a handful of homes in close proximity are two factors that affect the Lot 18 dig.** (Photo by Christopher Augsburger)

**(Continued on p. 3)**



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

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# Commander's Comment

## The power of diversity

by Col. Robert J. Davis  
Commander & District Engineer

The weather in the Baltimore area lately has been lousy; we've had snow, freezing rain, regular rain, ice, sleet and combinations of all of these at the same time! It's certainly been diverse.

Webster defines diversity as the quality that makes something or someone unique. There are many examples of diversity all around us.

Certainly, our missions in the District are diverse, with environmental, civil works, military and other specialized activities. Generally though, when one hears the term "diversity," people come to mind. Many think that diversity is just the newest "in" word for affirmative action or equal employment opportunity, but it actually is very different.

My view is that workplace diversity is a very positive term that refers to all the activities that we can do to celebrate and capitalize on our individual uniqueness.

The Project Management Business Process offers a very real example of the need for diversity. We could not execute a successful project without a project manager and several specialized (another way to say

"unique") team members, such as constructors, designers, contract specialists, support personnel and others. Each of these team members has different professional skills...and yes, cultural, ethnic and demographic backgrounds.

This group accomplishes activities to achieve a common goal. Imagine what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be like if we were all civil engineers, and there were no architects, accountants, geologists, biologists, chemists, IT specialists, mail clerks, etc. We would not be able to accomplish as much as we do now.

Luckily, we've successfully tapped into these diverse career paths, and the result has been quality products to our customers. In addition to ensuring the full use of our workforce talent pool, diversity fosters quality interpersonal relationships with co-workers and the community.

So how do we create a diverse workforce? Quite simply, we recognize and foster differences among people. We educate each other about our special skills and differences; we organize strong leadership, mentoring and career development programs; and we form special emphasis programs that provide outreach and high-light positive contributions of

minorities, women and other groups.

The aim of this overall approach is to tear down myths and stereotypes about people who have different skills, or look, act or speak differently from ourselves, and to tap into the positive qualities of each other to achieve positive results.

Toward this end, my goals for diversity are to:

- **continue to educate the workforce about the importance of diversity;**
- **create opportunities for all employees to participate in our leadership, mentoring, and career development programs**
- **recruit and retain a workforce that reflects the nation's diversified population; and**
- **promote positives (teamwork, successful projects, achievements, contributions) and eliminate negatives (discrimination, harassment, hostility).**

Recognizing and fostering diversity strengthens any organization and encourages positive employee morale, increases productivity and improves mission accomplishment.

I encourage all of you to continue to recognize the positive power of diversity in all that we do.

**Essays!**

## Spring Valley moves forward *(continued from cover)*

for the Lot 18 dig.

"An MCE is the worst single event that could occur at any time with maximum release of chemical agent as a result of unintended, unplanned or accidental occurrence," said Huntsville's Allyn Allison during a presentation to project partners, the Environmental Protection Agency, the D.C. Department of Health and American University. The Corps also sought input from the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board.

For Lot 18, the partners agreed with the Corps' analysis that the evaporative release of lewisite from a one-liter bottle would be the MCE. The work, safety and public protection plans are being geared toward handling that MCE.

Another task was to decide how to carry out the dig. Again, the partners discussed several alternatives and agreed with the Corps' recommendation to use an engineering control structure over the dig site. The uneven terrain at Lot 18 made a tent structure the chosen option. A tent is more easily moved and sealed to the ground than a

hard-sided structure.

The tent will be negatively pressurized so that air will flow from inside through a filtration unit to the outside, Craig said. The negative pressurization makes it difficult for an accidental release of chemical agent to escape the structure.

Filters are designed to trap and eliminate chemical agent. Monitors will check the air inside and outside of the tent for accidental release. An alarm will ring should chemical agent be detected.

"To the neighborhood, it means we're going to be a lot more visible on site with our logistical support," Georg said. "It'll look different, but the residents will be safe."

With the protections that will be used, the team believes the possibility of a chemical release that could affect the neighborhood is extremely isolated.

"It would be a

very remote possibility for all the precautions to have failed," Georg said. "There are three things that would have to happen at the same time—the tent has a breach, the engineering controls fail, and we actually have a bottle of lewisite that's fallen and broken and spilled."

As an additional safety measure, the nearby occupants of American University buildings and neighborhood residents will be taught Shelter-in-Place techniques, which are designed to minimize their exposure to an accidental release.



**American University Buildings can be seen beyond the Lot 18 fence.**

*(Photo by Christopher Augsburger)*



**An engineering control structure, similar in appearance to this tent set up at another site, will be used at Lot 18.**

*(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*



**A glassware item discovered at Lot 18 in 2003 sits near a cell phone to give an idea of its size.**

*(Photo by Richard Bird)*

# Corps helps create pre-war infrastructure

by Christopher Augsburger  
Public Affairs Office

Operation Iraqi Freedom provided an opportunity for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers teams to show how peacetime missions have developed and honed skills needed to support troops during wartime.

Corps expertise in real estate, for example, helped procure access rights in Pakistan for an airfield prior to the start of Gulf War II, according Lt. Col. J.T. Hand, deputy district engineer.

Hand served in the Operation Enduring Freedom theater of operations for 19 months, from September 2001 to June 2003, constructing facilities that served as platforms and staging areas from which combat operations were launched.

As the chief of Facilities and Construction Division, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, he used Corps assets as a critical tool to accomplish his mission and witnessed Corps employees first-hand as

they contributed to the accomplishment of an enormous scope of work.

Base camps in Kuwait — with tent cities capable of processing 100,000 troops, dining and mess halls for feeding 5,000 at a time, truck storage areas, fitness centers and recreation facilities — had to be carved out of the desert, where no water, power or roads had existed.

Hand's team also constructed airstrips and rotary aircraft holding facilities in Kuwait, and he oversaw the execution of an Inland Petroleum Distribution System from Kuwait to Iraq.

On each one of these projects, Hand called upon the Corps. He praised the work and the people. Though a relatively small number of Corps Soldiers and civilians are deployed to the Persian Gulf, the sum of their collective expertise has far exceeded their individual talents, he said.

About 400 Corps employees are now in Iraq. Baltimore District employees have served or are serving there.

"Without the Corps and civilian leadership, we would not be where we are in the Global War on Terrorism," Hand said.

Hand worked in Baltimore District before his deployment, so he was not surprised by the ability of

the Corps to carry out large missions. He had seen what District employees did on a daily basis, he said.

"USACE was a vital link needed to do the things we needed to do to make a difference," Hand said.

Jo Ann Boone, a supply technician in Logistics, served in Iraq as a logistics officer. She took a pride in her role in support of the military operations, she said.

"I felt that my job was an integral part for supporting the personnel who directly affected the main mission," Boone said.

With the pride and honor of serving in Iraq came the emotional challenges of leaving behind family and friends, both Hand and Boone said. However, they found comfort in the new "family" they built in Iraq.

As a civilian, Boone found the experience particularly valuable.

"The team I was on...we laughed and worried together everyday," she said. "I met other professional Corps employees, and, with working and living in such close proximity to each other, you form a bond that is unbreakable."

Hand talked with the group of District employees that recently left for Afghanistan. He could understand and relate to their concerns. Their reasons for volunteering would help carry them through some of the challenges, he said.

"They are there because they want to make a difference," Hand said. "And sometimes, that's enough."



**A Soldier looks out of a CH-47 helicopter as it flies over one of the airfields constructed before the war.**

(U.S. Army photo)

## March—Workplace Eye Health and Safety Month

### Where you are most likely to suffer an eye injury

In spite of safety programs and protective equipment, every day more than 2,000 working people in the United States suffer an eye injury.

Damage to the eyes is usually caused when something unexpected happens. It could be a sudden splash of caustic chemical or an airborne sliver of metal.

Workplace injuries are the leading cause of vision loss and blindness caused by an accident. Of the 2,000 injuries per day, 10 percent to 20 percent will be disabling because of temporary or permanent vision loss.

Many of those injured say they didn't think they needed to wear eye protection or were wearing inappropriate eyewear.

Doctors at the American Academy of Ophthalmology say proper eye protection is a matter of vital importance,

especially in construction, manufacturing and automotive repair.

Eye health includes more than accident prevention. As more people use computers, eye fatigue and difficulty focusing have become common problems. In themselves, computer

screens don't damage vision.

To reduce eye fatigue, computer users should take frequent breaks and rearrange their workstations for easier access to their computers. Wearing proper glasses or contact lenses can often relieve eye fatigue.

Sometimes heating and air conditioning systems can make eyes feel dry and scratchy. It could make you think something is in your eye. Over-the-counter eye drops usually relieve symptoms. If the problem continues, see your eye care professional for an evaluation.

There you have it. Wear eye protection when there is even the slightest chance of an injury and make changes in your workstation to relieve eye fatigue.

Your eyes will be safer and healthier if you make the extra effort.



## Poison Prevention Week, March 21-27

### Some sources of poison unexpected

When people think about poison, they usually have something that you accidentally eat or drink in mind.

That's a problem because people can breathe poison, get it on their skin or get it in their eyes. These are common causes of workplace poisoning.

About 9 percent of all poisonings occur in the workplace. That means it's vital

that people are familiar with all substances they use. Always read the label or instructions before using a chemical.

When calling a poison control center, be prepared to tell the person's age, weight, health status, substance involved, first aid given and location. The National Poison Control number is (800) 222-1222.



## McFadden takes reins from Pedersen to become Deputy District Engineer for Support Operations

by Christopher  
Augsburger  
Public Affairs Office

Maj. Eric M. McFadden returned to Baltimore District in January to serve as the newest deputy district engineer for support operations, the position Maj. David Pedersen held for the past several months.

McFadden previously served as program manager in the D.C. Programs Office before deploying with Baltimore District's first Forward Engineer Support Team to Afghanistan in July 2003, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

He brings with him a wealth of experience in

engineering and leadership and he has recently gained a new perspective in dealing with civilian employees.

During his Afghanistan tour, he helped lead a group of civilians

conducting military support operations. Because the group had no prior military experience, each person had his or her own concerns, he said.

"I tried to share the

way the military operates, and I made it a personal goal to educate them," said McFadden.

Before coming to Baltimore, McFadden commanded and deployed Engineer Battalion (Combat, Mechanized), located in Bamberg, Germany, to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian. He also served as assistant brigade engineer for 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in Vilseck, Germany.

McFadden, his wife, Corina, and their two-year old daughter, Marissa, look forward to making Baltimore District home once again, he said.



**Maj. Eric McFadden**

(Photo by Susanne Bledsoe)

## Baltimore completes several major projects at DDSP

by Marshall Hudson  
Public Affairs Office

Baltimore District has recently completed several construction projects at the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.

On Jan. 29, Col. Robert Davis, District commander, spoke at the depot's ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the Aerial Delivery and Textile Operations Warehouse.

The 200,000-square-foot warehouse stores parachutes and other air delivery materials that must be kept in a controlled

environment.

The facility also includes space for administrative offices, locker rooms and utility rooms.

On Feb. 6, Lt. Col. J.T. Hand, deputy commander, represented the District at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Public Safety Center, a 23,000-square-foot building that houses the security, fire and emergency departments.

The project consolidated the different departments that had been scattered across the depot and improved the workspace for the offices involved.

A ribbon cutting is scheduled to open the new Child Services

Center in March.

Baltimore District is also meeting the challenges of the family housing renovation program at the depot.

Future construction plans include a new open shed, consolidated maintenance facility, billeting, bulk and general-purpose warehouses and a physical fitness center.

The facility is the largest of the 22 depots for the Defense Logistics Agency. It stores military and commercial commodities for all branches of the armed forces and other agencies of the federal government.

# People Committee identifies good, bad leadership behavior

by the People Committee

(From Engineer Update, January 2004)

The increasing rate of change in our global environment demands a shift in leader behaviors as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work-force continues the transformation into USACE 2012.

In the past, managers were expected to maintain the status quo, but new forces in USACE have made it necessary to expand this narrow focus.

As the journey continues toward USACE 2012, the strategic, operational and technical requirements to support the structural changes have been mapped out. Though these requirements are key elements to this transition, the real foundation is successful people transformation to ensure leader behavior shifts.

One challenge to attract and retain a world-class workforce is to focus on leader values and behaviors that enhance the Corps Learning Organization, or LO, and those that inhibit it.

Two questions need to be asked: "What leader behaviors promote a learning environment?" and "What leader behaviors inhibit a learning environment?"

*Leader behaviors that inhibit an LO:*

- Isolating the organization.
- Lots of talk but little insight and guidance about expectations of an LO.
- Not listening effectively.
- Not taking time to get to the root of issues.
- Presupposing answers/decisions before inviting feedback.
- Restricting knowledge transfer.
- Resistance to change.
- Uninformed about the LO.
- Misunderstanding the LO.
- No clear communication of initiatives.
- Lacking unity/common

views on key initiatives.

- Not exhibiting desired behaviors consistently.
- Poor open communication of organizations goals and objectives.
- Reluctance to change and accept new ways to do business.
- Relying too much on history to dictate current action.
- Discounting feedback.
- Rewarding talk, not action.
- Making you feel bad if you offer constructive criticism.
- Not actively listening.
- Not always sharing information.
- Not walking the talk.
- Not committed to Corps' PMBP principles.
- Not sharing what the commanding general says at the Senior Leader Conference and other command meetings.
- Lack of timely communications on initiatives.
- Controlling behavior.
- Not sharing development of USACE 2012.
- Unwilling to take risks or support innovative thinking.
- Sending mixed messages.
- Failing to identify learning tools.
- Lack of interest.
- Sharing information only with chiefs and "assuming" it will be passed down to staff.
- Turf battles.
- Minimal interaction with the field.
- Not allowing mistakes.

*Leader behaviors that enhance an LO:*

- Admitting failure.
- Communicating, sharing, supporting, mentoring, and empowering employees and teams.
- Viewing change as a positive challenge.
- Not shooting the messenger.
- Conducting after-action reports after meetings.
- Communicating what's happening by e-mail and discussion.
- Being available to work with em-

ployees.

- Sharing information from senior leader meetings.
- Encouraging use of emerging leaders for special projects.
- Promoting cross-functional teams, leadership training, interaction across district/major subordinate command boundaries, and customer emphasis.
- Supporting leadership development program initiatives by regular counseling, mentoring and leading others.
- Involving employees in decisions.
- Sharing information.
- Valuing employee input.
- Encouraging risk-taking.
- Listening.
- Encouraging all employees to attend and participate in PMBP training.
- Planning strategically.
- Wanting to make a difference.
- Willingness to discuss and be part of the solution.
- Asking questions.
- Encouraging feedback.
- Rewarding efforts to learn from mistakes.
- Strong open commitment to PMBP principles.

The common theme is that employees want basic principles of honesty, integrity, ethics and caring from their leaders.

USACE is a learning organization that embraces the experience of its people to improve the way of doing business. Based on experience, learning organizations adopt new attitudes and procedures that get the job done more efficiently and effectively. Likewise, they discard attitudes and procedures that have outlived their purposes.

*(Belinda Taswell of Headquarters, Jose Sanchez of the Engineer Research & Development Center and Brett Call of Rock Island District contributed to this article.)*

## Women's History Month salutes women's contributions to the Corps of Engineers during World War II

**D**uring World War II, women worked out side their homes and in non-traditional occupations in unprecedented numbers. As millions of men and thousands of women entered the armed services, the country faced a shortage of workers needed to maintain a strong economy and support the war effort.

While the most famous image of wartime women workers was "Rosie the Riveter," women moved into hundreds of other occupations that formerly had been only for men. Contemporaries recognized this revolution in the world of work and acknowledged the new and critical roles of women in the wartime economy.

In June 1944, the Society of American Military Engineers' magazine, *Military Engineer*, published an article on women who worked for the Corps of Engineers on the home front. Titled, "Woman Power in the Corps of Engineers," the article, based on a Corps news release, described the wide variety of jobs filled by women.

At that time just over 2,000 women worked in Corps headquarters, then called the Office of the Chief of Engineers, or OCE. In 1903, only three women clerks worked in the much smaller OCE, and only 150 worked in OCE just after World War I. Many women remained

in clerical positions during World War II, but others moved into new areas.

According to the article, "Mary Elizabeth Spies and Dorothy Frye are the first two female mechanical and heating engineers of the Corps."

More than a thousand women worked in other engineer agencies in the Washington, D.C.,

an engineer male officer filled her job.

Throughout the Corps, women filled jobs that men traditionally had held.

At the Baton Rouge, La., Engineer Depot, 30 women served as plant guards. Although the article in *Military Engineer* praised the contributions of women to the war

effort, it did not entirely escape the gender stereotyping that characterized the period when it noted that the plant guards "have shown an unusual aptitude for both marksmanship and Judo."

In Portland District a female survey crew measured the contour and depth of the Columbia River channel. The district's chief survey engineer noted that the work required "intensive accuracy and teamwork," and

according to him, the female crew had "proved as capable, if not more so, than the men who formerly held these same positions."

During the wartime crisis, women demonstrated that they could perform traditional and non-traditional jobs with skill and dedication.

Their contributions to the war effort were critical to the success of the Corps of Engineers and the nation.

(Article adapted from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History web site.)



**A woman takes a man's place as a radio operator in Vicksburg District during World War II.** (U.S. Army photo)

area. At the Army Map Service, predecessor of today's National Imagery and Mapping Agency, women worked as photographers, negative cutters, translators, "draftsmen" and "women pressmen."

Many worked the swing shift and spent hours on busses and streetcars getting to work. Proving that some things never change, the article noted that "traveling in Washington at any time isn't fun."

A female graduate geologist headed a section in the map research group. Before the war,



# Corps employee adopts two orphans from India

by Chanel S. Weaver  
Public Affairs Office

As the father of seven children, Irwin Garskof's hands are always full. With three children in college, and four others at home, Garskof and his wife, Shelly, are always taking time to meet the needs of their children. The Garskofs said there is never a dull moment in their home.

"We really enjoy getting together for a meal or another family activity," said Garskof, chief of the Pennsylvania section of the Regulatory Branch. "Everyone's schedule is busy, so it's nice to have family time. Shelly and I love children."

And when the Garskofs said they love kids, they really meant it. Shelly Garskof works in a daycare center when she is not taking care of her own children at home.

In December, the Garskofs further illustrated their affection for children when they adopted 4-year-old Pravin, and 6-year-old Pournima — a brother and sister pair — from an orphanage in India. The family of nine has now become a family of 11, and the Garskofs could not be happier.

"We really feel blessed to have the new addition to our family," said Garskof. "They have added so much to our family."

Pravin and Pournima are

natives of Pune, India, a poverty-stricken town not far from Mumbai (formerly Bombay). Prior to adopting Pravin and Pournima, the Garskofs traveled to Pune and said they were surprised by the extent of the poverty of the town.

"Many of the houses were nothing but shacks with metal roofs," said Garskof. "We were also struck by how many children roamed the streets begging for money."

It was this revelation that

According to the Garskofs, Pravin and Pournima are ecstatic about their new family.

"They are happy to be alive," said Garskof. "They appreciate everything they get. The first night that we bought them sneakers, they wanted to sleep in them, so we allowed them to do so."

Just as Pravin and Pournima are glad to be the new additions to the Garskof family, so do the other children of the Garskof family value their new brother and sister.

"Our youngest son, Nicholas, has already assumed the role of big brother," said Garskof. "He enjoys reading stories to his new siblings."

The Garskofs live in an eight-bedroom house in Port Matilda, Pa. Because Garskof plays the guitar, and Shelly plays the piano, the family enjoys singing together as well as participating

in many outdoor activities.

While the Garskofs are glad to have Pravin and Pournima in the United States, they said they do not want to completely Americanize their two new children.

"In addition to celebrating American holidays, we also celebrate a few Hindu and Buddhist holidays," said Garskof. "We want them to retain a sense of their own culture when they become older."



**Shelly and Irwin Garskof adopted Pravin, 4, (left) and Pournima, 6, (right) last December. The Garskofs say they are happy to have two new additions to their family.**  
*(Photo courtesy of Irwin Garskof)*

prompted the Garskofs to help some of these children. Although the adoption process took two years, the Garskofs said they would not let anything deter them from adopting the two children into their family.

"At first, there was a language barrier because the children's native language was different from ours," said Garskof. "However, we have learned a few hundred words, and now we can mutually understand each other most of the time."

### Former Tuskegee airman speaks at Black History Month celebration

Raymond Haysburt, former Tuskegee airman and successful area businessman, spoke at Baltimore District's Black History Month celebration Feb. 18.

Haysburt used the theme of the talk, "Brown vs. Board of Education, 50th Anniversary," to highlight how he used education and discipline to overcome discrimination.

Haysburt, who grew up in poverty as one of eight children, graduated with a degree in mathematics from Wilberforce University. When World War II began, he became a fighter pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen, the African-American flying unit of the Army Air Corps.

Despite being in a segregated unit and sometimes being mistreated, he said their motto, "my country, right or wrong, my country," were always words they lived by.

Haysburt said that one of the biggest reasons for their extraor-

dinary combat record was that, though done for bigoted reasons, they were kept in training much longer than white units. He said the educational difference showed.

Another difference he cited was discipline. He said they always felt that they couldn't make a mistake so they never left the bombers they were escorting, leading to a perfect escort record. He said other fighter units tended to leave the bombers when they saw a chance for personal glory.

Haysburt said that the Brown decision was, "the end of American apartheid," and that afterwards, "an amazing well of good will broke open, and Baltimore really changed."

He finished by challenging others to follow in his footsteps taking up the mantle of leadership.

Haysburt was a co-founder of the Parks Sausage Company.

### Harvest for the Hungry

Craig Stelts, Real Estate, bought the winning raffle ticket for the City Crescent Building Garage Parking Raffle the last week in January.

Employees vied for a week of free parking in one of the Executive Office parking places. Maj. Eric McFadden, deputy district engineer for support operations, drew the winning number.

All proceeds from the Harvest for the Hungry program will be used to purchase food for the Maryland Food Bank. All canned and packaged items will be donated to the food bank.

To date, over 1,000 items have been donated.

The program will end in March with a team contest, *March Madness – Dash to the Finish*. Check with your contact person for details.

### When water really was scarce in the United States

When you turn on the tap today, you'll be indulging in a modern miracle. The average American uses 50 to 100 gallons of water a day, depending on the season of the year and the location.

For many people, water conservation has become the order of the day with limits on watering their grass or washing cars.

In 1900, the average person used just five gallons a day. Only 15 percent of households had flushing toilets, and even fewer had bath tubs.

People often had no conception

of what it was like to be wet all over. Bathing was thought to be unhealthy in 1845, though the quality of water could have contributed to that conclusion.

In Boston that year, bathing was outlawed and was to be done only under a doctor's orders.

In parts of the West, water was really scarce. If you cooked vegetables, you saved the water for washing the dishes. Then the water was strained and put into your car radiator. If the car broke down, you drained the water out so you could use it on

your garden.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the first public water systems were built for fighting fires and for manufacturing. Household use was incidental. The untreated water was not very good, but it was plentiful and cheap. Consumption went up.

People on farms weren't that lucky. They dug wells by hand and carried water to the house, 50 gallons of it for one load of laundry.



## Commander commends Corps for work in Iraq

Gen. John P. Abizaid, commander of the U.S. Central Command, sent the following letter to Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers in appreciation for the Corps' efforts in Iraq.

"Thank you for the support you and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team have contributed to the reconstruction of Iraq. In particular, I commend the spirit, dedication and commitment of the more than 100 men and women who deployed to Iraq as part of Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TFRIE).

"Within days of establishing the TFRIE mission, your experts began to flow into Iraq and immediately impacted delivery of electricity to the Iraqi people. By leveraging your existing contract mechanisms and techni-

cal expertise, the Corps ensured the near term power generation objective.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been instrumental in the repair and rehabilitation of the Iraqi oil and electric infrastructure. The contributions of your team will have lasting effects on the everyday lives of the Iraqi people.

"Please extend my good wishes and appreciation to all of the Corps of Engineers teams who have contributed to the betterment of the Iraqi people."

Flowers added his thanks to employees around the world.

"I also want to thank everyone in the Corps for the work you do every day in support of the Global War on Terrorism," he said. "You make me proud."

## News you can use

### Speakers Bureau

School science fair season is in full swing, and many District employees are serving as science fair judges.

**Brandon Matthews**, Planning, helped judge the Montgomery Village Middle School fair in Gaithersburg, Md., Jan. 29.

**Mallecia Hood**, Programs and Project Management, volunteered for the Argyle Middle School fair in Silver Spring, Md., Feb. 18-19.

**Robert Pace**, **Christi Milam** and **Angela Sowers** of Planning, along with **Larry Mathena** and **Maria de la Torre** of Engineering, worked the science fair at Cockeysville Middle School, Cockeysville, Md., Feb. 17.

Real Estate's **Pamela Wilson** and Engineering's **Carey Nagoda** and **Leslie Perkins** judged the Franklin Middle School fair in Reisterstown, Md., Feb. 19.

**Mona Ponnappalli** and **Robert Moyer**, Engineering, also worked the fair at Middle River Middle School in Baltimore County, Md., Feb. 23-25.

### Volunteers needed

The Speakers Bureau has several requests for school science fair judges and career days in March and April. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Mary Beth Thompson, Public Affairs, 410-962-4088, or by email.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District Awards Program

**April 14, 2004**  
**10 a.m.**  
**Baltimore Convention Center**



**Service Awards**

**Federal Executive Board  
nominees**

**Honor awards**

**Team awards**

**Gallery of Distinguished**

**Employees:**

**Harold Nelson**

**Christine Anuszewski**



Happy St. Patrick's Day