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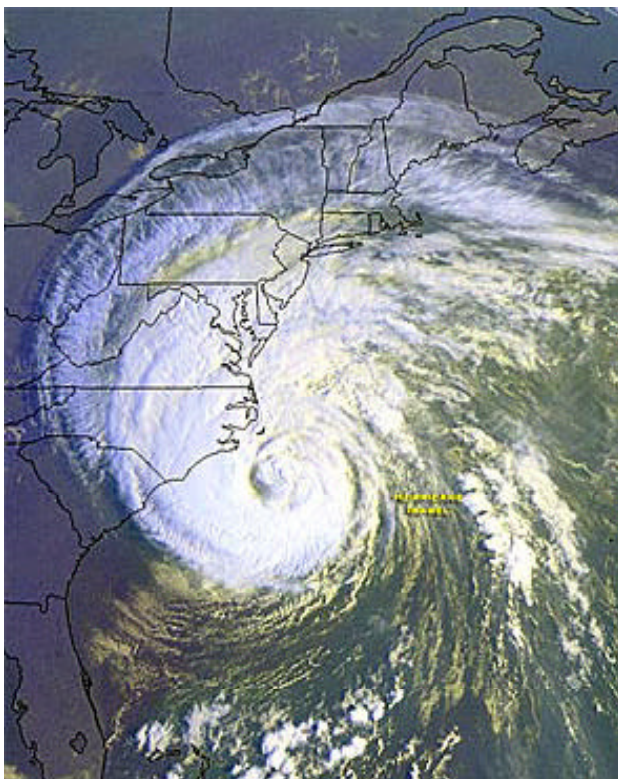
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"Doing your
best is more
important
than being
the best."

-John
Wooden

Corps plays vital role in hurricane preparedness



Hurricane Isabel, pictured above, was just one of many hurricanes to strike the United States in recent years. The Corps' local flood protection projects help prevent millions of dollars in flood damages.

*Story by Chris Augsburger
Public Affairs Office
Photos courtesy Baltimore District*

Hurricane Charley made landfall on the west coast of Florida Aug. 13, hitting near Charlotte Harbor, with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph. Charley's eyewall hammered Punta Gorda and neighboring Port Charlotte, devastating the area before traversing the central Florida Peninsula, resulting in a swath of destruction across the state.

When the storm cleared, Charley had left a path of wreckage in its wake. It was directly responsible for 10 deaths in the United States and preliminary damage estimates ranging from \$13 to 15 billion, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Fla.

(Continued on p. 3)

Combined Federal Campaign begins this month

The 2004 Combined Federal Campaign for Baltimore District will run Oct. 4 - Nov. 12. The goal for this year is \$90,000, and the theme for this year is "Every One of Us," emphasizing the idea that each person can make a difference by contributing to a charity. Visit www.cfccmd.org, or contact your division point of contact for more information on the CFC.



Combined Federal Campaign



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

[http://
www.nab.usace.army.mil](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil)

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Commander's Comment

190 and 3 years ago: Remembering Sept. 11

by Col. Robert J. Davis
Commander & District Engineer

It was on Sept. 11, 1814 — 190 years ago — that the British began a land and sea assault on the City of Baltimore. In the preceding month, Washington, D.C., had been overrun by British troops, the White House was burned to the ground, and our very way of life was threatened. In many ways, the War of 1812 was the first test of our nation's resolve in nearly 40 years since the American Revolution.

Since the Revolution, our armed forces had largely returned to militia status. We had settled comfortably into our routines and were not expecting any challenges to our adolescent status as a nation.

Were it not for the courageous resolve of heroes such as Maj. Gen. Sam Smith and Brig. Gen. John Stricker of the Maryland militia, artillery Maj. George Armistead, engineer Capt. Samuel Babcock and thousands of citizen volunteers in the defense of Baltimore at Fort McHenry, North Point and Hampstead Hill, the Star Spangled Banner would never have been penned, and the history books would have been written very differently.

Sept. 11, 2001, also changed the landscape of our world forever. The physical landscape changed in the skyline of Manhattan, on the south face of the Pentagon

and in a field in western Pennsylvania.

Equally important, our nation's emotional and psychological landscape changed too. Victims and new heroes were brought into crystal clear focus in our collective national view.

Three years ago, 3,000 people lost their lives. They were fathers and mothers, aunts and uncles, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and friends. They were interwoven into our American fabric. They perished without ever understanding why such events took place.

Our nation ... and the world ... stood in silent, horrified shock ... and then we began to understand ... and we began to act.

Today we understand much better than we did in 2001 that there are those in this world who would do us grave harm. There are those who loathe our way of life, and those who would threaten the freedom we hold so dear, so personal and so precious.

A 1949 quote by George C. Marshall, the famous World War II general, former chief of staff of the Army, and secretary of state, seems to apply to both Sept. 11 events:

"When immediate peril is not plainly visible, there is a natural tendency to relax and return to business as usual, politics as usual, pleasure as usual. People become indifferent to what I

might term long-time dangers to their security. The public appears generally in the spectator — interested, yes, but whose serious thinking is directed to local, immediate matters. Spectators of life are NOT those who retain the liberties of others. There are many who deplore, but few who are willing to act — to act directly or influence events. Action depends upon conviction, and conviction in turn depends upon understanding — a general understanding that action is a basic necessity of mankind's nature."

Remember those who perished in New York, Washington, D.C., and western Pennsylvania, and remember the families they left behind ... especially the children. Remember those amongst us who have decided to act.

Finally, remember that you have chosen NOT to be a spectator of life ... and you make a difference in the lives of others. You honor the memory of each of the 3,000 souls lost on Sept. 11, 2001, and those who gave their lives in the War of 1812 with your resolute commitment to the Army and the nation.

Our nation has said, "Never again," yet it is your spirit of selflessness and sacrifice, at a time when your service is needed most, that makes those words ... "Never again" ... a reality.

Essays.

Hurricane preparedness

(continued from cover)

Hurricane Charley was just one in line of four hurricanes to make landfall in the United States so far in this hurricane season. The remnants of each resonated for hundreds of miles inland by heavy rains, wind or localized flooding.

One of the missions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is to provide assistance, within its authorities, when natural disasters or other emergencies occur. In instances when the nature of a disaster exceeds the capabilities of state and local interests, the Corps can provide help to save human life, prevent immediate human suffering or mitigate property damage.

The Baltimore District executes a preparedness program that includes an emergency management organization; planning, training and maintaining adequate supplies, tools and equipment; and an inspection program for both federal and non-federal flood control structures.

The District performs inspections of flood control works constructed or repaired by the Corps and provides advice to local officials on needed maintenance.

Ahead of Hurricane Isabel's arrival in 2003, Corps personnel deployed to provide constant monitoring of projects that would experience their highest water level. Charles Frey and Dave Capka, of Engineering Division, deployed to a levee in Moorefield, W. Va. During the event, the team noticed that the levee was experiencing some problems with the water level.

"There was under seepage, so we remedied the situation temporarily with a ring dike

made out of sand bags," said Frey.

According to Frey, towns typically stockpile sand, stone and other types of materials for the city to use during an emergency. Local government employees accompany the Corps teams and snap into action when needed.

"When we started having all the seepage problems, the levee superintendent for the town called its Department of Public Works, and a crew of five or so guys came out with sand bags, in the middle of the storm," said Frey.

While Corps employees monitor their own projects, the District also provides assistance in the development of plans at the state and local level and, upon request, inspects non-federal dams and flood control projects.

"We're there to make real time decisions," said Frey.

Baltimore District provides emergency assistance for flood response and post-flood response activities to save lives and protect improved property during or following a flood or coastal storm. The Corps supplements state and local efforts, and prior to a predicted flood emergency, the Corps has the ability to take advance measures under certain circumstances. Baltimore District can strengthen federal and non-federal flood control structures, construct temporary levees and execute channel clearance and dredging of federal projects in order to restore the original design capacity.

During an emergency, the



High winds and strong currents are typical characteristics of hurricanes and tropical storms.

District can assist in search and rescue operations; provide technical advice and assistance; provide emergency repairs to levees and flood control projects and furnish materials when the District is actively participating in a flood fight.

Baltimore District may also help state and local governments in post-flood response. In most cases, immediately following an emergency, the District can furnish technical advice and assistance to state and local governments; clear drainage channels, bridge openings or structures blocked by debris; clear water supply intakes; remove debris to reopen vital transportation routes; provide for temporary restoration of critical public services or facilities and identify hazard mitigation opportunities.

When Hurricane Ivan hit the area in September, it wreaked havoc on nearly every state in the Mid-Atlantic region. But thanks to engineering ingenuity and preparedness, preliminary figures indicate that Baltimore Districts' flood protection projects along the Susquehanna River prevented an estimated \$1.6 billion in flood damage.

NAD commander shares command philosophy

by Brig. Gen. "Bo" Temple
North Atlantic Division
Commander

Shortly after I took command of the North Atlantic Division in November 2002, I shared my command philosophy with the Division and District team members. That philosophy, based on some basic principles, remains the same today.

I firmly believe in teamwork. This is the key to our organization's success and our future. We all need to be positive contributors to our team or "team of teams." Working together, we can meet our customer's needs for safety, quality planning, engineering, construction and project services and operation.

Whether we are building a new training facility for the soldier or working on improvement of a large project, you and I need to meet very high standards for executing the requirement. That is what the American public expects of us.

I will assume, and trust, that everyone knows his or her job, is doing the right thing and is willing to learn new things every day. After all, if you did not want to be part of this great organization, you would not still be working for the Corps.

Our focus

All of us will continue to focus on three Corps' strategic goals: people, process and communication within the context of the USACE 2012 concept.

People. Our Division "Team of

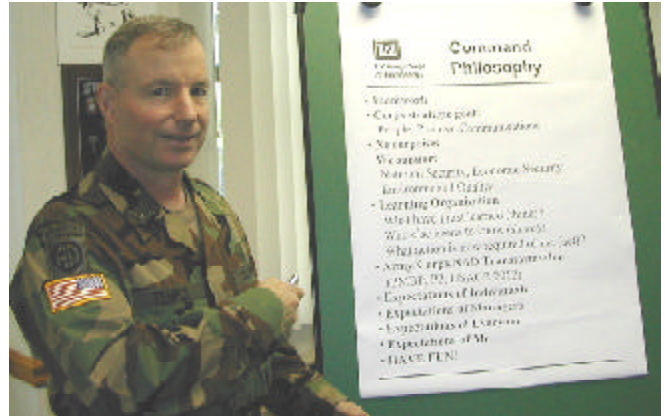
Teams" is made up of over 3,800 civilians and military members. We must continue to respect each other as experts in our own right and take care of each other as members of our Division family. No one is superior to others. Everyone needs to mentor new members as they join our Division team.

Process. We are here to deliver high quality products and services safely to the American people and military. Both expect us to use our knowledge, skills and insights every day.

Communication. This is the glue that holds us all together. Every project has three elements: the customer, contractor or executor, and the contract management agency — the Corps. Without good communication, we cannot work together as a team to successfully deliver quality work.

Some insight into the way I think and work: Please don't surprise me with bad news. It does not get better with age, and I never "shoot the messenger." If you have something "hot," please call or come see me. Putting it on email alone may not be good enough.

The Division has a large program. Everything we do supports three areas: national security, economic security or



Brig. Gen. "Bo" Temple discusses his command philosophy. (Photo by David Lipsky, North Atlantic Division)

environmental quality. Support to these three elements, especially the Global War on Terrorism, is vital to our way of life.

Whenever I visit the Division's districts, projects and field offices, I always share what I learn. Many years ago, I found that sharing knowledge is central to an organization's success. The Corps is a learning organization. We must share our collective experiences with each other.

Whenever you learn something, ask yourself three questions:

- 1) What have I just learned (think)?
- 2) Who else needs to know (share)?
- 3) What action is now required of me (act)?

If you do this, you will be a positive contributor to our learning organization.

Our customers have choices. In many cases, they do not have to come to the Corps, so by learning, adapting and improving, we can remain an agent of choice for all our customers.

The Corps and the Division, like the Army, are transforming.

"Please don't surprise me with bad news."

We are well on the way to institutionalizing the Project Management Business Process, improving the way we do business. PMBP, enabled by P2, is the key to successfully implementing USACE 2012.

No new system or change is perfect and we will have challenges along the way, but working as a team, the Division will find solutions and make these new systems and concepts work. We will move forward, together with our district and headquarters vertical teammates, to transform the Division into a Regional Business Center.

Expectations of individuals

You should come to work prepared to do your best every day by being ready mentally, physically and spiritually. It sets the tone for you and your team. Others will notice your extra effort toward preparedness, and this type of attitude is contagious. Everyone needs to set an example and be a positive role model for all team members and for the public we serve.

Integrity is the bedrock of how we operate. Without it, we lose trust ... and without trust, there is no teamwork, leading ultimately to mission failure.

I would like to encourage everyone to join professional organizations such as the Society of American Military Engineers, the Army Engineer Association, the Association of the United States Army, the American Society of Civil Engineers or other such groups. I ask you to support campaigns that build or support our human community like the Combined Federal Campaign,

Army Emergency Relief and other local or global associations.

Selfless service is the mark of a great organization. Place the needs of the organization before selfish needs. We have had dozens of civilians who volunteered to support disaster responses and to serve the nation overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq. One of the things we must also do as individuals and as an

organization is to take the time to say "thank you" to teammates and

partners who serve us and the nation so very well.

Expectations of managers

The Division will excel in meeting the Corps' vision, with each and every one of us committed to the success of the USACE 2012 concept.

I am firmly committed to taking care of the Corps' greatest asset, our people. All must treat everyone with dignity and respect. Team leaders and managers must take care of their people and encourage all to share and learn from each other.

Anticipate requirements and think ahead for people, projects, dollars and opportunities. Take action and lead your team, or team of teams,

with the goal of contributing to the overall mission success. Remember, no one individual can carry the burden alone. Share and encourage others to share and learn from each other. Leaders must ensure that all have opportunities for growth and professional development, guided by sound individual development plans. Leaders must also ensure

the safety of their people at the office and on the job site.

It is impossible to over-coordinate an action. We face many complex, challenging and difficult tasks in this fast-paced environment. Thorough, effective coordination for every action is vital to success. This is especially important in our matrixed, 2012 team of teams, as we work many actions

simultaneously and in parallel. Coordination is also vital to the consistent balancing

of transformation, daily requirements and emergency missions.

Expectations of everyone

Treat each other with dignity and respect. Tolerate nothing less from yourself or others.

Learn, share and grow together as positive members of our Division team.

Be a good role model as we raise the next generation of leaders. Our hope is that they will be better than we are. Through teamwork we can ensure that the total organization learns and improves.

Expectations of me

The same.

Don't be surprised if I stop in to see you. It will be my chance to share knowledge and to learn from you.

Finally, never forget to have fun. Enjoy family, colleagues, and yourself. I take the mission and organization seriously, but I do not take myself too seriously. Learning and improving are fun and challenging. I look forward to seeing you in my travels throughout the Division.

Essays.

Retiree maintains full schedule

Story by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office
Photo courtesy Irene Tackett

Nearly ten years have passed since Irene Tackett, former Baltimore District Equal Employment Opportunity, or EEO, officer, “retired” from the Corps, but the retiree has never stopped working.

“I am busier now than ever,” said Tackett. “I never ‘really’ retired.”

Immediately after ending her career in 1995, Tackett worked as a consultant for other Corps districts who sought her advice and counsel regarding EEO issues. She also worked as a sales representative for cosmetic products.

Today, at 70 years of age, Tackett still puts in more than 40 hours a week between her two jobs. She is a secretary at St. Frances Xavier Church, the oldest African-American Catholic church in the United States, and production man-

ager for *Josephite Harvest*, the oldest black Catholic magazine. Tackett says she enjoys staying busy, despite her demanding schedule.

“I want to stay active,” said Tackett. “I’m not a soap opera fan, so I am not content with just sitting at home.”

Tackett has always been active. As the first EEO officer for Baltimore District, she ensured that all employees were treated fairly by processing discrimination complaints and sitting on panels during the new employee hiring process. She also worked with the Corps’ North Atlantic Division to implement EEO training.

Lucy Lather, former chief of the Public Affairs Office, said Tackett was a key leader in the District.

“Irene was always professional and went out of her way to find a fair and equitable solution to the many situations she dealt with daily,” said Lather.

Tackett earned many awards during her tenure with the Baltimore District, including the de Fleury silver medal — awarded to an individual who has rendered outstanding and significant support or service to the Army Corps of Engineers. Tackett was also inducted into the District’s Gallery of Distinguished Employees.

Baltimore District employees said that her numerous awards are a testament to the quality service that Tackett provided to the Corps.

“Irene has always embodied the Army value of respect,” said Chris Correale, chief of Opera-

tions Division. “She is respected by her peers throughout the Corps of Engineers, her subordinates, her superiors and her customers.”

Charlie Walker, the District’s government affairs officer, echoed Correale’s sentiments.

“Irene was highly regarded by her EEO peers and the leadership of Baltimore District,” said Walker. “She didn’t flinch from giving candid advice to the military officers and senior civilian leadership, as well as to employees.”

Tackett continues to live in Baltimore with her husband, Andrew. They have been married for 34 years and have one son, Stephen. Tackett rarely gets any free time, but when she does, she enjoys watching television game shows, duckpin bowling, visiting casinos and reading.

She says that she has many pleasant memories of working at the Baltimore District.

“I really enjoyed the Corps overall,” said Tackett. “Of all the agencies I’ve worked for, the Corps was the best.”

Just as Tackett misses her days in the District, many District employees miss her presence on the job.

“Irene’s easy smile and laughter made employees comfortable and willing to trust her judgment,” said Ron Mardaga, an environmental program manager in Planning Division.

Ann Haight, executive office secretary, agreed.

“Irene proved to be a great co-worker and friend,” she said.



Irene B. Tackett

District welcomes new Public Affairs chief

*Story and photo by
Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office*

Roberto "Bob" Nelson has only been working in Baltimore District for a little over a month, but the Public Affairs chief is already enthusiastic about his job with the Corps.

"I am glad to be here in the District," said Nelson, "and I enjoy working with the challenging projects that we face each day."

Nelson is equally enthusiastic about the public affairs mission of the Corps. He says his vision for the public affairs office is based on the essentials of teamwork and cooperation.

"I am looking forward to working with the public affairs team and doing our part in executing the Corps' mission," said Nelson. "We are here to offer the District support whenever it is needed."

Nelson is no stranger to public affairs. He's a former Army combat photojournalist with the 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne), worked as a public information officer for the Delaware Department of Transportation's external affairs office and as the public affairs officer for Navy activities at the former naval station in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Prior to accepting his position with the Corps, he was the regional environmental public affairs officer for the Navy's Southeast Region, headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla.

Charles Dooling, public affairs program director for the Navy's Southeast Region, Nelson's former supervisor, said he is confident that Nelson will be a great asset to the Baltimore

Md., with his wife, Elise, his cocker spaniel and cat. In his spare time, he enjoys gardening and yard work, antiques and watching college football. He is a University of Delaware and Penn State football fan.

Nelson also enjoys spending quality time with his family. He is especially proud of his stepchildren, Amanda and Kane. The Nelsons' new home

in Maryland provides them the opportunity to spend more time with Amanda, who lives and works in Delaware. Kane, on the other hand, is miles away.

"Kane is an Army specialist and is currently deployed to Iraq with C Company 84th Engineering Battalion from Fort Richardson, Alaska," said Nelson. "He has an overwhelming

sense of patriotism, and his entire family is very proud of him."

Nelson credits his father with much of his success. His father instilled lifelong values at an early age that have helped him throughout his personal life and professional career.

"My father taught me the importance of working hard to get ahead and the value of respecting and valuing others," said Nelson. "He is a great role model."



Roberto "Bob" Nelson is the new chief of the District's Public Affairs Office. He says he is proud to be a part of the Corps.

District.

"Bob is perfect for his new job," said Dooling. "His strong work ethic, great personality, and proactive approach to public affairs is the Navy's loss but definitely the Army Corps of Engineers' gain."

Nelson earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Delaware State University and holds a diploma in broadcast journalism from the Defense Information School.

Nelson lives in Port Deposit,

Disability Employment Awareness Month begins

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao has selected, “*You’re Hired! Success Knows No Limitations!*” as the official theme for the observance.

This annual observance, designed to recognize the contributions of workers with disabilities, began in 1988 with the Presidential Proclamation of Public Law 100-630 (Title III, Sec 301a). This law replaced “National Employ the Handicapped Week,” which had been celebrated annually since 1945 during the first week in October.

A little history

From the beginning, mythical perceptions and stereotypical attitudes have portrayed individuals with disabilities as different, aberrant, deficient, incompetent and more. But like gender and ethnicity, disability is simply one of many natural characteristics of being human. There have always been people

with disabilities and differences in the world, and there always will be.

Largest minority group

One of every five Americans is a person with a disability. Some people are born with conditions we label as disabilities; others may acquire a disability through an accident or illness; and, if we live long enough, many of us will acquire a disability through the aging process.

Disability does not discriminate! People with disabilities make up the largest “minority group” in the United States, and it’s the most inclusive! It includes individuals of all ages, both genders and any sexual orientation, as well as people from all socioeconomic, religious and ethnic groups.

Laws and Services

Although several regulations exist to protect the rights of Americans with disabilities, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, of 1990 is perhaps the most well known. When this Act was passed, it represented a promise that the nation would no longer underestimate the abilities of disabled Americans. The ADA contains employment provisions to protect workers with disabilities from discrimination and mandates that all businesses employing more than 15 workers make reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities.

This law has played a critical role in helping to secure a future of enhanced opportunity and new free-

doms for workers with disabilities.

Disability not A problem

Old attitudes and perceptions — not the disability itself — constitute the greatest obstacle facing people with disabilities. Very young children with disabilities may spend countless hours, day in and day out, receiving “special services” and interventions or attending “special programs” — and in the process, their natural and joyous childhoods may be lost. Many school-aged children with disabilities are sorted by medical label and shuttled into segregated special education classrooms.

Adults with disability labels, instead of working at the jobs of their choice and living in the homes of their choice with the supports they need to succeed, may spend their days in sheltered, segregated day programs or workshops. But the problem never has been the disability; the problem is and has always been society’s beliefs about disability. People with disabilities are not broken, and they don’t need to be fixed!

Equal treatment for all

What will it take to ensure that people with disabilities are treated fairly? We must all remember the sacred words of our nation’s Declaration of Independence, “all men are created equal.” Our forefathers believed in equality, and it’s time for us to do the same.

Information compiled from Internet sources. Visit www.dol.gov/odep for more on disability awareness.



Smoke alarms: an early warning system

In the event of a fire, smoke detectors save lives. **WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS** can alert you to a fire in your home in time for you to escape, even if you are sleeping. Install smoke detectors on every level of your home, including the basement and outside each sleeping area. If you sleep with the door closed,

install one inside your sleeping area as well.

Test detectors every month,

following the manufacturer's directions, and replace batteries once a year or whenever a

detector "chirps" to signal low battery power. Never "borrow" a smoke detector's battery for another use — a disabled detector can't save your life. Replace detectors that are more than 10 years old.

Following these simple rules will help!



Keep Halloween fun, safe for children

With witches, goblins and super-heroes soon to descend on neighborhoods across the United States, the American Red Cross offers parents some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday.

Halloween should be filled with fun and excitement. Following some common sense practices can keep events safer and more enjoyable.

- ☞ Walk, slither and sneak on sidewalks, not in the street.

- ☞ Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks and low-flying brooms.

- ☞ Cross the street only at corners.

- ☞ Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.

- ☞ Wear light-colored or

reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards and brooms, too!

- ☞ Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.

- ☞ Carry a flashlight to light your way.

- ☞ Keep away from open fires and candles. Costumes can be extremely flammable.

- ☞ Visit homes that have the porch light on.

- ☞ Accept your treats at the door. Never go into a stranger's house.

- ☞ Use face paint rather than

masks or things that will cover your eyes.

- ☞ Be cautious of animals and strangers.

- ☞ Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. Don't eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.



Spring Valley soil removals continue, Lot 18 pauses

The removal of arsenic-affected soil is complete at four residences out of the remaining 113 properties requiring remediation at the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site in Washington, D.C. Arsenic removal activities are underway at the fifth property and preparations are set to start at two more in October.

At Lot 18, excavation temporarily stopped in August as planned. The start back date will be determined when data collected has been analyzed and new fiscal year funds received. The Corps is demobilized from the site. The tent has been repositioned for the restart of excavation, and it, along with the filters and most of the monitoring equipment, will stay on site during this down period. The site is

guarded during the shutdown.

Since the removal operation began June 24, 474 55-gallon drums of soil have been excavated and about 890 items recovered. Seven items are undergoing further analysis at Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, or ECBC. Results are not yet available.

All of the other items are "scrap." Fewer than 30 of these are ordnance-related scrap, such as expended fuzes, empty projectile casing and broken pieces of munitions. The other types of items recovered are empty or broken test tubes and bottles, other broken glassware and ceramic pieces, construction debris like pipes and bricks, battery components and horse-shoes.

Among the seven items being analyzed at ECBC, two ordnance-related scrap items have

been evaluated by the Material Assessment Review Board, or MARB. One is an open cylinder with a tar-like substance, and the other is a sealed metal container with an unknown liquid.

The MARB's evaluation determined that the two items are not chemical warfare munitions and that neither was explosively configured.

The other items at ECBC are four sealed containers and one open container.

Operations at Lot 18 have progressed slower than originally planned due to large volumes of rain water and shallow groundwater collecting in the excavation areas. Over 48,000 gallons of water have been collected. The Corps is presently testing and discharging the collected water into the sanitary sewer system.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

Town Hall

Monday, November 8
10 a.m.

Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor
101 West Fayette Street
All employees encouraged to attend

Jennings Randolph campground among top 100

The Robert W. Craig Campground at Jennings Randolph Lake has received the "America's Top 100 Family Campgrounds" award for 2004. The award is given out annually by Reserve America, a camping reservation provider, servicing agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.

Each year more than 3,000 campgrounds are reviewed by park staff, rangers and by consumers who provide testimonials. From that list, Reserve America selects the "100 best" that provide consumers with outstanding locations and services to bring their families for a fun, safe, educational and memorable family-bonding experience.



Jennings Randolph Lake staff display their award. Back row left to right: Skeet Hatfield, Linda Hatfield, Emily Robinson and Robbie Robinson; front row left to right: Eric Risinger, Norm Dennis, John Hearn and Bill Donnellan. (Photo by Bill Donnellan with timer)

8 out of 12 new D.C. schools now complete

Four District of Columbia schools, newly constructed or renovated by the Baltimore District, opened Sept. 1, marking another milestone for the partnership between the Corps and D.C. Public Schools.

Noyes and Cleveland Elementary Schools, McKinley Technology High School and Kelly Miller Middle School were completely modernized either by a combination of new construction and renovation, or by demolishing the old buildings

and building new facilities.

These schools bring the total of new schools built by the Corps for D.C. Public Schools under the whole-school modernization program to eight.

Four more are under construction: Patterson Elementary School will open Oct. 12; Thomson Elementary School is scheduled for June 2005; Bell-Lincoln Multicultural Center for December 2005; and Luke C. Moore High School for spring 2006.

News you can use

Blood drive in City Crescent Building

When: Friday, Oct. 15

Where: EEOC Conference Room, Room 4100

Time: 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Please contact your admin point of contact to schedule an appointment. For other questions, call Samantha Rosen, Human Resources, at x 2087.

Health Savings Accounts

You have probably heard the news that the Office of Personnel Management will be offering Health Savings Accounts to federal employees next year and a similar plan to federal retirees. What you may not know is what a Health Savings Account is, and whether you should get one.

To help federal employees and retirees learn about the advantages and disadvantages of these accounts, OPM has launched an informational web site — which includes a description of the accounts, a comparison chart, and a Frequently Asked Questions page — at <http://www.opm.gov/hsa>.

Speakers Bureau

Lt. Col. J.T. Hand, deputy commander, spoke to a reunion of the 322nd Combat Engineer Battalion Sept. 28 about his experiences overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism.



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Official Business

