



CONSTELLATION

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In this issue

page 3
Infrastruc-
ture Security
Partnership

page 4
Small Busi-
ness

page 9
Martin
Luther King
events

page 10-11
District
Digest



District employees Sesh Lal, left, Antoine Plessy, front, and Art Starr, behind, take part in a lunch time yoga class at the FED Fitness Center.

Off the couch, into the gym

Story by Mary Beth Thompson
Photos by Susanne Bledsoe

There's a reason why January contains *National Lose Weight and Feel Great Week*, along with *Diet Resolution Week* and *Family Fit Lifestyle Month*. It's linked to the common human trait of making New Year's resolutions that include getting fit, trimming down or both.

To help City Crescent Building employees with their resolutions, the FED Fitness Center is waiving its \$30 initial

membership fee during January. The 2,500-square-foot fitness center, sponsored by the Federal Executive Board, is located on the north end of the second floor. Its services and facilities are available to all federal employees who work in the Baltimore downtown area.

"We have strength training equipment and cardiovascular equipment," said Anita Roundtree, the center's program manager. Roundtree, along with

specialist Lori Adams and three instructors, offer fitness services at the center.

"We are here all the time to help them," Roundtree said. The center is open from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"They have virtually all the equipment you would get at a commercial facility," said Walt Garman, Resource Management Office. Garman serves as the center's treasurer.

(Continued on p. 6)



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

[http://
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Commander's Comment

Field Force Engineering

by Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.
Commander & District Engineer

The New Year is here again, and as in years past, this is a good time to think about the past, the present and the future.

As we look back, we think of the attack on America with shock, sadness and anger.

Our present has our fellow Americans conducting ongoing military and law enforcement operations to bring justice to those who have or would harm us.

We also look to the future and its uncertainties. Like all Americans, we know that our nation is at war. Unlike most Americans, we work for the United States Army.

As we make our individual plans for the year, we should all be aware of the role that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can play in support of the ongoing war on terrorism or other military contingencies.

Team Baltimore has supported numerous contingency operations in the past, including Southwest Asia, Bosnia and Kosovo. It is likely that we will be called upon to support similar operations in the future.

USACE supports U.S. military forces by providing Field Force Engineering, or FFE, a new doctrinal term that is

beginning to take root in the Corps' vocabulary.

FFE encompasses technical assistance to U.S. forces in the planning, design and construction of operational infrastructure (base camps, logistics and command and control facilities), environmental engineering and other tasks that are generally beyond the capability of engineer troop units deployed to the theater of operations.

The bottom line is that it's highly likely that the Army, and possibly other U.S. services, will need Corps support to conduct any extended military campaign.

To be better prepared if and when the call comes, North Atlantic Division has developed an Operations Plan describing how we will support FFE.

The OPLAN establishes requirements for a series of FFE teams—Base Development, Infrastructure Assessment, Logistics Support, Contingency Real Estate and Forward Engineer Support—to augment supported units or command and control USACE assets.

Teams will be identified in advance and prepared to deploy with 30 days notification. Advance elements will be required to deploy in as few as eight days.

What is certain is that

Baltimore District will be called upon to staff several of the teams, most likely Base Development, Forward Engineer Support and Contingency Real Estate.

When the time comes to put names into team positions, my policy will be to seek volunteers first. I will try to avoid involuntary deployments and will look everywhere, including outside the District, if it comes to that.

I would stress to everyone that right now no decisions have been made. No orders have been issued and the tentative planning is just that—tentative planning.

I also want everyone to think about our capabilities and how they relate to recent events at home and abroad.

I encourage everyone to consider what you would do if called. Are your finances, your will and your power of attorney all in order? Are there problems in your personal life you need to resolve?

Getting those things in order might be the best New Year's resolution you could make, whether you are called to support this effort or not.

We should all be proud to be part of an organization that can and will contribute to our nation's war on terrorism.

Essayons!

Corps facilitates design, construction partnership to improve homeland security

Leading design and construction industry groups and several federal agencies have agreed to collaborate on issues related to the security of the nation's infrastructure in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The group, called the Infrastructure Security Partnership, will serve as a national asset on domestic infrastructure security.

The partnership will offer technical support and comment on public policy related to the security of the nation's built environment. It will bring the many and varied disciplines involved in design and construction together to consider integrated solutions to difficult and complex design issues.

The idea of the partnership received strong support from Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, chief of engineers.

"If architects and engineers can work together to prevent another disaster like this one, we should not hesitate," he said.

The Corps facilitated the creation of the partnership, but there is no lead agency. All local, state and federal agencies,

professional associations, societies, and industry trade groups, whose main purpose is related to the design and construction of the nation's built environment, are eligible to join.

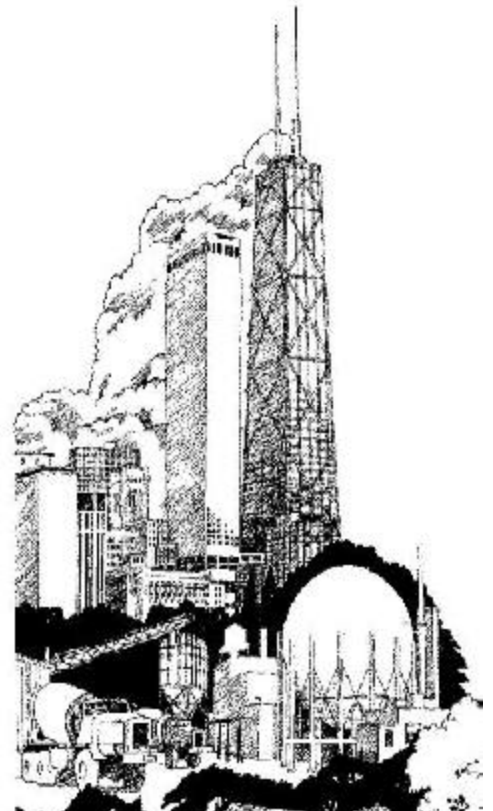
This is a unique opportunity for the civil engineering profession to take a leadership role in responding to the need to protect and enhance the nation's infrastructure, said H. Gerard Schwartz Jr., president of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The partnership's steering committee consists of representatives from the Corps, the American Institute of Architects, the Society of American Military Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Council of Engineering Companies, the Associated General Contractors of America, the Federal Facilities Council, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

The partnership plans to engage in regular forums to share information and build professional relationships. They will meet quarterly or as re-

quested and will hold an annual *National Congress on Infrastructure Security* on or about the anniversary of the events of Sept. 11.

A signing ceremony involving all of the 40 organizations that are expected to join is tentatively planned for late January.



Infrastructure Security Partnership Objectives

The proposed objectives of the group are to:

- undertake joint efforts to improve anti-terrorism and asset protection methods and techniques for the built environment;
- promote the participation of all interested organizations and ensure effective communication among all participating entities;

- cooperate in the identification and dissemination of data and information related to the security of the built environment;
- build synergy among organizations to react quickly and positively to issues of significance;
- promote the building of effective professional relationships to further the advancement of the design and construction industry;

- develop a methodology for assessing vulnerabilities;
- establish protocols related to sensitivity of information generated by and distributed by the Partnership;
- consider consequences of anti-terrorism and asset protection measures to occupants of facilities and emergency responders.

Being big on small business

by Marshall Hudson
Public Affairs Office

Federal law states that anytime two or more firms could do a given project at a reasonable price to the government, agencies like the Corps must look to see if any small businesses could do the work before allowing large companies to bid for the contract.

"Small business utilization is just good business," said Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, chief of engineers. "By developing and growing competition for our contracts, we ensure a broad base of capable contractors who can work with us to meet the needs of the nation," he said.

The Corps of Engineers takes these "small business set aside" contracts very seriously and has set Baltimore District's small business goal at 40 percent of the fiscal year 2002 contracts, which are estimated to be in excess of \$500 million.

The District's small business office of two permanent and one 120-day detail employees assists project managers in working to make that happen.

"We rely heavily on and are thankful for the support we receive from the contracting officers and the project managers," said Pat Huber, deputy for small business.

"Our job is to ensure our people know about all of the various Small Business Administration programs so small businesses have an equal opportunity to participate on all of our prime and subcontracted work," she said.

Once a contract qualifies as a

set aside, the next step is to determine which Small Business Administration program to use.

The first program considered is the Historically Underutilized Business zones, or HUB zones. HUB zone small businesses are those located in areas with high unemployment and low capital investment.



The program, which applies to all jobs over \$100,000, is designed to help economically impoverished communities.

If no HUB zone businesses are qualified to do a specific job, the next small business program looked at is the 8a program.

An 8a contractor is a small business firm that is socially and economically disadvantaged. Before granting approval for a firm to be an 8a contractor, the Small Business Administration reviews the company's history and accounts to ensure it is responsible and capable.

The 8a contracts are actually signed with the Small Business Administration, which then subcontracts the work to a qualified small business.

Contracts are written this way so if, for some reason, the subcontractor fails to do the job properly, the SBA can have another company come in and fix the work.

Small businesses are enrolled in the 8a program for nine years. A small business spends the first four years in a developmental period and the next five in a transition stage.

After the nine years, companies must leave the program, because they are expected to have grown and developed enough to bid on contracts in the open market to survive.

Programs also exist to help businesses in categories such as small, small disadvantaged, woman owned small, historically black colleges and universities/minority institutions, veteran owned small, veteran disabled, Native American tribally owned and very small businesses. Mentor-protégé programs also exist to help new businesses grow.

Misconceptions about small business programs are usually related to the definition of what a small business is.

The decision about whether a business is small or not is based on Department of Commerce classifications. The code lists the maximum amount of income and number of employees. The limits vary for each different type of company, because there are no generic maximums.

For example, heavy construction firms are allowed to make up to \$27.5 million annually, while architect and engineering firms are allowed only to make \$4 million a year.

Design-build success, Fort Meade's ESC

by Marshall Hudson
Public Affairs Office

Baltimore District recently completed Fort Meade's new Emergency Services Center at a cost of about \$6 million.

The facility, which consolidated the post's police and fire departments into one modern building, was a design-build project.

Design-build is a streamlined version of the traditional project design process. It shortens the time from concept to delivery to the customer. It also encourages innovation by giving guidelines and parameters but leaves many specific choices to the designer.

The departments, known as the Provost Marshal Office and the Fire Prevention and Protection Division of the Directorate of Public Works, had been in several old buildings scattered across the post.

"It was a challenge meeting



The Mapes Road side of the Emergency Services Center building, with the entrances to each of the different tenant departments. Photo by Gary Poling

the needs of the fire department and PMO in one building, but their involvement in the design process made it possible," said Gary Poling, project engineer.

The new building contains the bays for the fire fighting and emergency medical response vehicles, as well as living areas and administrative areas for the firefighters.

"We are very satisfied with our part of the facility," said Maj. Martin Partridge, deputy provost marshal. "It's a good building, and it is meeting our needs."

Additional benefits of the new location are that it places the

emergency response vehicles closer to the housing areas, and it co-locates the phone dispatchers for the police, fire and ambulance all in one place.

The firm of Whitney, Bailey, Cox and Magnani prepared the design-build contract solicitation under the auspices of the Baltimore District.

Coakley Williams Construction of Gaithersburg, Md., was the design-build contractor. The facility design was prepared by BBGM Architects and Interiors of Washington, D.C.

The ESC was occupied and fully functional in September.

The new victory garden: Old Glory in flowers

Some gardeners did it last fall, and more plan to do it this spring. They are planting victory gardens with displays of red, white and blue flowers.

During World War II, victory gardens were popular in U.S. backyards, both for the vegetables they provided and as a display of American self-sufficiency. But today's gardens are more symbolic.

To start planning a display

now, consider which flowers will bloom in the right colors at the right time. Not every gardener knows which flowers to buy. Some are going to the Web for more information.

On GardenWeb.com, gardeners are trading tips on how to do it. Some keep it simple with pansies, mums and dianthus, planting them in their front or back yards. Neighborhood associations in many cities are

planting larger patriotic displays.

In Brigham City, Utah, the Lincoln Center Boys and Girls Club created a dramatic patriotic salute last fall. The 120-square-foot flag used a variety of flowers, including zinnias and petunias.

As an added feature, local architects helped with the design, which makes the flag look like it's waving.

FED Fitness Center

(continued from cover)

"Of course, they have full shower facilities. Some members, who are avid runners, just join so they can have a place to change, hang their clothes and shower when they come back from running," Garman added.

Roundtree or Adams gives each new member a personal fitness assessment. They help set up workout programs that will meet members' goals, and they provide one-on-one instruction on use of the machines and the facility.

The center also offers classes in kickboxing, aerobics, step aerobics, yoga, muscle conditioning and toning. Most classes are scheduled between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Fitness center membership costs \$9 biweekly. Membership includes use of the equipment, access to the classes, the initial fitness assessment and one-on-one training. For additional fees, employees can sign up for



Joanne Boone, Logistics Management Office, uses the fitness center machines early in the morning.

a personal trainer or a weight-loss program.

"The nice benefit for the employee is that it's far cheaper than using a commercial facility," Garman said. "You can use it before work, during lunchtime, after work or what other arrangement you make with your supervisor. And when you're home at the end of the day, you don't have to go back out, which I consider a big benefit."

Most Corps employees arrange to have the fee automatically deducted from their paychecks, but other payment options are



Maurice Peterson, of the Logistics Management Office, works out.

available, Garman said.

"Everyone is welcome to stop in or call," Roundtree said. She or Adams will show the facility and explain the application process and payment options. The center can be reached by phone at 410-962-6107 or 8102.

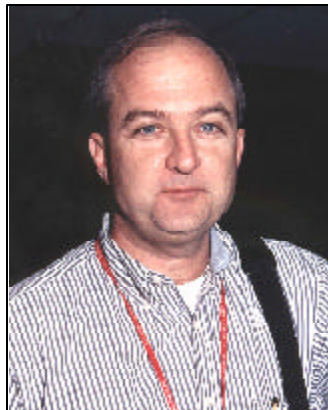
Reality check: *What do you think about the fitness center?*



Ben Wible
Engineering Division

"It's convenient. It's a great place to work out."

Photos by Susanne Bledsoe



Bill Leigh
Engineering Division

"It's one of the best employee benefits we have here. More people should take advantage of it."



Susan Jones
Real Estate Division

"I love that I can work out on my lunch hour. And the price is really low compared to other facilities."



Alan Warminski
Engineering Division

"It's a great benefit. Exercising during the day re-energizes you."

Small steps lead to big loss

by Mary Beth Thompson

Question: How does a person lose 137 pounds?

Answer: One pound at a time. Just ask Janet Faust, a management analyst in the Resource Management Office. When Faust reaches her target of 137 pounds, she'll be exactly one-half of her former weight.

"I'm very close to my goal," Faust said. "I'm hoping to get there by the end of January, first of February."

How did Faust accomplish the feat?

"You have to start out in little steps," she said. Faust began by joining a well-known national weight reduction group in January 2000.

"The program is basically: exercise, drink your water, account for all your intake," she said. "I keep a journal of what I eat and plan all my meals every day."

Even though exercising was difficult for her, Faust pursued the task diligently.

"I couldn't even walk a block when I first started out," Faust said. "I did five minutes for a while. Then I did 10 minutes for a while. I couldn't do anything but walk. And then I worked up to 20 minutes."

Faust eventually increased to four miles a day. She walked before going to work in the morning. When the weather started to turn cold, she looked for another option. She had been occasionally using the FED Fitness Center on the City Crescent Building's second floor.

"Now it was time to get serious," Faust said. She began coming in between 6:30 and 7 a.m.

every workday and exercising for 45 to 60 minutes. She's followed that schedule ever since.

"My routine is to get here, exercise, get it over with, and then I have the day to myself," she said. She looks forward to working out every morning.

"Even when I'm lying in bed, and I really don't want to come to work, I'm thinking, 'Yeah, but I want to get my exercise in.' It's a motivator," Faust said.

She credits the fitness center with great convenience at low cost.

"You just do your exercises, shower, and walk up the hall to take the elevator to work," she said. "You can't beat it."

On the weekends and holidays, Faust walks and does aerobics at home. Her husband, Allen, joined the same weight loss program and has lost 62 pounds.



Janet Faust exercises at the FED Fitness Center, which has helped her to trim down and improve her health.

Photo by Susanne Bledsoe

"I'm a goal-oriented person, so that's why I think the program has worked for me as well as it has," Faust said. "You put a goal in front of me, and it's something to reach. My husband's the same way. Let's work in little steps to get there."

The weight loss program recommends a first goal of losing 10 percent of the member's weight. After reaching that milestone, the next goal is another 10 percent.

"You only should lose between one and two pounds a week, which is what I've done all through," Faust advised, explaining the slow but successful process.

Achieving small goals, one at a time, helped Faust reach her overall objective of becoming fit. The management analyst summed up her main reason for getting in shape in resource management terms.

"If you're not healthy, you can't work as well as you could. You're not going to enjoy life as well as you could, and it's going to cost you money," she said. "Being healthy is your greatest asset, bottomline."

Her last seven pounds or so are coming off slowly. But, if determination is the key, Faust will shed them as surely as the rest, one pound at a time.



Janet Faust, before her weight loss.

Courtesy photo

Corps continues arsenic sampling in Spring Valley

by Doug Garman
Public Affairs Office

Since May, Baltimore District has been collecting soil samples from 1,550 residential and non-residential properties across the Spring Valley neighborhood in northwest Washington, D.C. This work is part of a comprehensive effort to identify any areas that might contain elevated levels of arsenic.

To date, approximately 1,179 properties have been sampled. Preliminary arsenic results on 976 of these properties have been received and it appears that roughly 12.5 percent of these properties will require more detailed follow-on grid sampling. This effort is ongoing.

Arsenic found in AU Park

"At a community meeting in October, we announced that we have found much higher than anticipated levels of arsenic in the soil at several properties in the AU Park neighborhood of the project area," said Maj. Michael Peloquin, deputy district engineer for Spring Valley. "Our grid sampling results of this area have identified a pocket of contamination at levels as high as 400 parts-per-million."

Corps officials have notified the property owners of the results and have begun coordinating the next step, which will involve removing the contaminated soil. Specifically, this work involves excavating the top layers of contaminated soil and replacing it with clean fill and topsoil and then restoring the damaged landscaping.

The cleanup will be accom-

plished under a time Critical Removal Action, which allows the Corps to initiate work in a much shorter timeframe than is typically possible.

A similar removal action was completed earlier this year at American University's Child Development Center, where elevated levels of arsenic were found at the center's playground area.

"We did not anticipate the discovery of elevated arsenic in soil in the AU Park neighborhood, especially given the past use of this area," said Peloquin.

According to historical records, the AU Park neighborhood was used by the military between 1917-1918 as a soldier training area known as Camp Leach. It was independent of the American University Experiment Station, and it was not used for chemical research or testing.

"The arsenic could be the result of soil movement during the development of the area, or it could be from a source totally unrelated to past military activities," said Peloquin. "Whatever its origin, the Army is committed to sampling all the properties within the project's boundaries and cleaning up those areas that present a risk to residents."

Burial pit excavation

Elsewhere in Spring Valley, the Corps has resumed the excavation of a burial pit at the property adjacent to the residence of the Korean Ambassador. Since May, workers have safely removed several dozen World War I munitions from the pit. To date, none of the rounds was configured for detonation and none contained chemical warfare material. A total of 42 glass bottles have also been



Worker collects soil samples from a Spring Valley property.

Photo by Parsons Engineering

removed. Test results on 40 of these found eight of the bottles contained mustard or mustard derivatives, and 14 contained lewisite or its derivative. Two of the bottles are currently being evaluated. One glass carboy lid, one crushed 5-gallon metal can and several pieces of broken glassware have also been safely removed from the site.

Other activities include the ongoing restoration of the Korean Ambassador's property, where items in two disposal pits were removed last year. And an adjacent area, referred to as the Small Disposal Area, is also being restored following the removal of contaminated soil there earlier this year.

In addition to these restoration activities, the Corps will soon conduct an intrusive investigation to further identify two anomalous items on two properties in the Sedgwick Street area.

The Department of the Army Safety Office is reviewing the plan for this work.

Take time to remember why Jan. 21 is not just another day off

Everyone loves a holiday and a day off work, but sometimes it's hard to remember why a certain day is important.

Jan. 21 is more than a day that creates a three-day weekend. And its primary purpose is not to give you extra time to sleep, catch up on chores or go shopping.

Rather, it is a holiday to honor a man who spent most of his life trying to show people that everyone has value and dignity.

It is more than 40 years since Martin Luther King Jr. began his work of trying to teach people that all are one people, and all are created equal in the eyes of God. Still there are people who may not have heard that.

"Diversity" is a word often used today, but it's just another word for reality. And the reality is that people are not just white or just black. Those who are

called "white" can be part Irish, Dutch, American Indian, German, Scot or part anything else.

Those who are called "black" can be part African, Italian, Canadian, French, Spanish or any other nationality. All can be male or female, educated or uneducated, conservative or liberal.

One of the things King wanted everyone to know is that everyone is a little bit of what someone else is, and everyone is a little bit of what all are.

In 1964, King won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to help all live together in peace.

On this holiday, take time to remember King's life and his work, and think about what can be done to honor it.

Jan. 21 is a holiday for a very important reason.

"I have a dream..."



**"Honoring a Martyr for Peace"
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968**

In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, here are a few words from the famous "I have a dream" speech.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' ... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King Jr. Special Events

Baltimore District MLK Observance 2002

Date: Jan. 9, 10 a.m.

Location: Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel

Speaker: Dr. Ruth Rutledge, Associate Dean for the Graduate School, UMBC

Music: Timber Grove Elementary School Choir, Owings Mills, Md.

The Meeting

(a play about Martin L. King Jr. vs. Malcolm X)

Date: Jan 19, 7 p.m.; \$10

Location: Imani Arts Center, Capital Heights, Md.

Contact: Ersky Freeman, 202-582-0002

Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance

Date: Jan 22, 7:30 p.m.; FREE

Location: Saint James Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.

Contact: (202) 546-1549

Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation

Date: Jan 20, 3:30 p.m.; FREE

Location: 12th Baptist Church, Baltimore

Contact: 617-442-7855

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Parade

Date: Jan 21, 2 p.m.; FREE

Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd - Baltimore

Contact : Angela Smith, 410-752-8632

11th Annual College Park's Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Date: Jan 19, 3 p.m.; FREE

Location: National Archives II, College Park, Md.

Contact: Thelma Lomax, (301) 345-3518

District, D.C. Schools break ground for new elementary school

On Nov. 29, officials with the Corps of Engineers and the District of Columbia Public Schools broke ground on the new Miner Elementary School in Washington, D.C.

The event marked an important step forward in the long-range plan to bring a new generation of schools to the city.

Built in 1900 with an addition built in 1961, Miner is one of eight elementary schools being modernized under this plan. The project will involve the

construction of a new 76,900 square-foot facility. Following the relocation of students and staff to the new school, the old school building will be demolished.

Designed with the student in mind, the new school will feature modern classrooms, library and multipurpose space for more than 560 students.

"Unique to the design phase of this project was the fact that a similar school designed by the same architectural firm, Grimm and Parker Architects, and currently in use in Alexandria, Va.,



Miner Elementary School

served as a real-time model," said Lt. Col. Flanigan, deputy district engineer for Baltimore.

"Several members of the staff from Miner had the opportunity to tour this facility and see first hand what the new school will look like."

Officials plan to complete the new school in

early 2003.

Since 1998, the Baltimore District has been assisting the District of Columbia Public Schools with efforts to renovate and modernize the schools system's 147 public schools as part of a capital improvements program.

Jan. 8-14

Universal Letter Writing Week

In honor of Universal Letter Writing Week this month, here are a few thoughts:

Mark Twain once received a letter from a young man who said he had heard that eating fish stimulated the brain and could help him become a successful writer.

He asked Twain if he thought this was true. Twain replied that he had heard about the theory and perhaps it might work.

"In your case, however," wrote Twain, "if your lengthy letter is representative of your literary skill, may I suggest you get started right away. I recom-

mend you begin with one whale per week."

"I have made this letter longer than usual, only because I have not had the time to make it shorter."

— Blaise Pascal, French mathematician and physicist in *Lettres Provinciales*, XVI

"Never answer a letter when you are angry."

— Chinese proverb

"I have not sufficient composure to write a long letter."

— Abraham Lincoln, in a letter to John T. Stuart, Jan. 20, 1841

"Paper will accept any writing."

— Russian proverb



State of the District/ Awards Program

**Sheraton
Inner Harbor Hotel**

300 S. Charles St.

**Wed., Feb. 27, 2002
10 a.m.**

Gallery of Distinguished Employees inductee:

Joe Dow
(former chief of Contracting Division)

All must register in Army Knowledge Online

by Lt. Gen. Peter M. Cuvillo
Public Works Digest

This past summer, the Army directed all active duty military, civilians, National Guard and Reserve individuals to register for an account on the enterprise integrated portal, Army Knowledge Online, or AKO.

In its current evolving form, AKO provides a capability to move the Army toward a network-centric, knowledge-based force. As such, your AKO account will initially provide these types of capabilities:

- Universal e-mail addressing scheme (first.lastname@US.ARMY.MIL).

- Several powerful search engines.

- Army-wide directory service through the ability to automatically forward AKO mail to your primary unit e-mail address. (This allows you to retain a single e-mail address throughout your career and provides the Army with a global directory from which information can be disseminated. For this directory to be effective, you MUST forward your AKO e-mail to your primary account, if AKO is

not your primary account.)

- Access to over 2,700 web page links.

- Access to various Army Knowledge Centers and functional pages (depending on your privileges).

In the near future, these capabilities will be available:

- Secure instant messaging and chat.

- News feeds.

- New, improved white pages.

- Content management of functional pages by the functional proponent.

- A directory of and access to all Army personnel.

- Portal of portals.

- Rich web e-mail.

- Personalized (individual and unit) information access.

- Enterprise and functional information collaboration and access.

- Group calendaring.

In short, you will soon become PORTAL CENTRIC to conduct your business, whether it be collaboration, e-mail, calendaring, or data/information access. This is an evolving capability, so stay tuned as it matures.

CFC wrapup

At the official end of the campaign on Dec. 14, nearly 270 District employees had contributed approximately \$65,058. The goal this year was \$77,000.

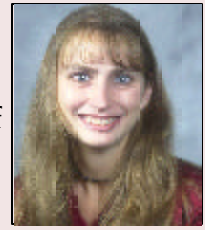
When the Constellation went to press, CFC chairman Doug Knowles said he would still accept contributions which would be sent directly to the CFC headquarters.

Baltimore to have blood drive

Baltimore District will have a blood drive Jan. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the EEOC Conference Room, 4th floor, of the City Crescent Building. Contact your administrative POC to sign up.

Courteous employee of the month

Valerie Miller, secretary in the Civil Works Branch of Programs and Project Management, has been named courteous employee for January.



Valerie Miller

"Courtesy just comes naturally for some people, and Valerie is one of those people. Despite the demands on her, Valerie maintains a friendly and caring attitude to all she comes in contact with. She takes the time to see that every person's request is answered in a helpful and courteous manner. Her bright smile and concern for others have made Valerie a valuable asset to PPMD, as well as many other offices in the District."

— James R. Jones
Chief, PPMD

DPW Workshop

The DPW Worldwide Training Workshop was conducted in Baltimore Dec. 11-13.

The theme of the workshop, "Facing DPW Challenges" covered current and emerging issues on topics, such as privatization and outsourcing, environment as well as civilian career planning and best business practices.

Senior Army speakers from the Pentagon and many major commands were featured.

Approximately 500 participants from Army installations worldwide attended.



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Official Business



Angel Tree Program

Baltimore District employees provided gifts for nearly 200 needy children in the Baltimore area. Sponsored by the Salvation Army each year, this program provides gifts for children all over the United States.