



# CONSTELLATION

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*Tropical Storm Agnes left flooding and devastation throughout the Mid-Atlantic area in 1972.*

## After Agnes: Employees look back 30 years later

*by Mary Beth Thompson*  
*Public Affairs Office*

As District employees help with cleanup efforts after the destructive April 28 tornado in LaPlata, Md., thoughts naturally turn to the ravages of Agnes 30 years ago this month.

Agnes swept up from Mexico. She was

the mother of all storms and would deliver a harsh lesson along the eastern seaboard.

She started off the Yucatan Peninsula June 15, 1972, and developed into a hurricane three days later. She struck Florida June 19, then lost some of her power and was downgraded to a tropical depression.

*(Continued on p. 8)*



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

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# Commander's Comment

## Why so many holidays?

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

We're in the middle of the season of national holidays, birthdays, celebrations and remembrances. Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day have just passed and July 4th is coming soon. This month, on June 14, it's the U.S. Army's birthday and Flag Day. The Corps' official birthday is June 16.

As members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we should be more aware than most Americans of why these days are important.

With our country at war and our fellow soldiers and Department of the Army civilians deployed around the world, it is especially appropriate that we mark and honor these anniversaries.

We celebrate Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday of every May to honor those who currently serve. The soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, reservists and civilians who serve are all American patriots.

Some must uproot their families every few years to move from assignment to assignment. Some endure long separations from loved ones and friends while on deployments and unaccompanied tours.

Some go through physical hardships to stay ready, and answer the call whenever

the nation asks them to risk their lives to defend it. They do all this with little recognition and for compensation that is less than they might earn in other endeavors. Armed Forces Day is a salute to them.

On Memorial Day, we honor those who served and died in defense of our nation. From those who gave their lives in the Revolutionary War, to those we have recently lost at the Pentagon and in Afghanistan, we thank them for our freedom and honor their memory.

Everyone knows July 4th is Independence Day. In retrospect, we know that when the members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, it was a watershed event in the history of the world.

We should enjoy the fireworks, but we should also remember the courage of those men. At the time they took their stand, many viewed the founders of the nation as naïve idealists who would most likely be hanged.

The Army Birthday is a celebration of our great institution. Comprised of professional and dedicated volunteers, the U.S. Army is the finest army in the history of the world.

Our Army's history is also the history of America. From

saving the Union and ending slavery in the 1860s, to setting the standard in America on racial integration and promotion based solely on individual merit in the 1950s, the American Army has been a preeminent force for good in America.

At its founding in the Revolutionary War, the Army fought to **make** America free. In the many wars, conflicts and police actions that followed, it has fought to **keep** America free and spread freedom throughout the world. From helping to defeat Nazism, totalitarianism and communism in the past, to its current missions now, the Army has been a force for freedom throughout the world.

We should all be proud to be a part of the U.S. Army. On June 14, our institution will be 227 years old. It is a milestone that deserves to be recognized.

And finally, I hope you will join your fellow employees to celebrate the Corps birthday at our picnic on **June 14**. This is an opportunity for you to relax and enjoy a time away from the stress of the workplace and have some fun with friends and family.

There's more information about the upcoming celebration and picnic on **p. 12** of the *Constellation*. And there is still time to buy a ticket, so come on out and have fun!

**Essays.**

# Dredging projects receive praise from port community

by Doug Garman  
Public Affairs Office

Dignitaries from Congress, the Maryland Port Administration, the Maryland Association of Bay Pilots and Baltimore District gathered May 20 at the Dundalk Marine Terminal for a special ceremony to celebrate three navigation channel deepening and widening projects.

The Brewerton Channel Extension, the Tolchester Channel S-Turn Straightening and the Baltimore Harbor and Anchorages dredging projects were each touted for improving the safety and efficiency of the waterways that support thousands of large ships annually that use the Port of Baltimore.

The anchorages project began in February and will be finished

next spring. It involves widening, lengthening and deepening anchorages and connecting channels within Baltimore Harbor to accommodate modern ships. Currently, because only one large ship can anchor in the harbor at a time, ships must anchor miles away in Annapolis and wait for ships in the harbor to clear the berth and Craighill Channel before entering the port.

"These projects will ensure the safe and navigable passage for ships, the continued competitive advantages for the port and economic benefits to Maryland residents," said John Porcari, Maryland Secretary of Transportation.

Completed last August, the Brewerton project involved the widening of a constricted five-mile portion of the Brewerton

Channel. Widening this portion of the channel from 450 feet to its authorized width of 600 feet allows two ships to safely pass simultaneously through this section of the channel.

Equally important was the straightening of the Tolchester Channel S-Turn. Completed in March, a stretch of the channel that required pilots to make five course changes in a three-mile area was straightened to reduce the number of changes to one and eliminate this difficult and potentially dangerous challenge.

The total cost of these projects is approximately \$47.7 million, which is being cost-shared between the Corps and the Maryland Port Administration.

## CorpsPath — a tool to help employees work better together

by Chanel S. Weaver  
Public Affairs Office

*CorpsPath* is an alternative learning method designed to bring Corps districts and divisions even closer together as an organization.

It uses the web, video, voice, sound, text and graphics to accommodate all learning styles to give each employee a stronger sense of the Corps' role in society. It's based on the Corps vision and integrates its values, mission and beliefs with Corps business processes. Some people describe *CorpsPath* as "the new employee orientation none of us had."

### Is *CorpsPath* mandatory?

Yes, the *CorpsPath* curriculum is mandatory for every Corps employee. The chief and senior

leadership expect everyone to participate fully. While visiting Corps districts and divisions and attending conferences, the Chief of Engineers noticed that work processes in each district differed—sometimes a little, sometimes a lot. He also found that many people in the Corps were only familiar with the limited area, in which they work and lacked a common understanding of the whole Corps. The chief believes all employees need *CorpsPath* to help understand the Corps vision, values, multiple missions, history and culture.

### How long to complete?

There is no classroom for *CorpsPath*. It can be accessed from two CDs or through the District's Intranet. *CorpsPath* consists of a brief introduction and 14 mod-

ules, and should take about 20 hours to complete. These modules are grouped around five Corps focus areas: capable workforce, knowledge management, business practices, corporate outreach and Army support. Employees will go through the program at their own pace, but must complete it by Oct. 31.

### After completion?

Supervisors or team leaders will schedule follow-on discussions to address any comments, questions or concerns employees might have.

*CorpsPath* has incorporated a feature to facilitate these discussions that allows each individual to jot down questions and comments while going through the material.

# And the planting goes on

by Lucy Lather  
Public Affairs Office

**D**ignitaries from Congress and federal, state and local governments joined citizen volunteers at a Wetland Restoration Demonstration Day April 26 at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. This day highlighted a week of planting by volunteers.

The planting week was organized by the National Aquarium in Baltimore, and volunteers planted over 65,000 marsh grasses to create about a 4-acre tidal wetland at the refuge. Baltimore District contractors had pumped over 25,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the Chester River to create this site.

“The planting of a wetland created from dredged material we placed at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge demonstrates that material removed from navigation channels can be put to constructive environmental use,” said Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., district engineer.

“This project is a win-win because we found a suitable place for the dredged material and, at the same time, are restoring lost wetland habitat that is so important to the Chesapeake Bay.”

Sen. Barbara Mikulski and Reps. Wayne Gilchrest and Robert Ehrlich participated in the Demonstration Day ceremony and spoke about the environmental benefits of this

project to the region and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Aquarium created a partnership among federal agencies, conservation groups, citizens and its own staff to make this event possible. The refuge, where the Corps pumped the dredged material, is on property belonging to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Aquarium obtained the vegeta-



*Student volunteers take a break after planting many marsh grasses in the wetland at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge.*



*Bob Blama and Stan Snarski, Operations, demonstrate the technique of making holes approximately every 18 inches for the plants.*



*Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., district engineer, takes a turn at planting.*

tion and recruited and orchestrated the volunteers to plant. The citizen volunteers provided many long hours to complete the project.

Partners in this project included the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Friends of Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation, Shared Earth Foundation, FishAmerica and Youth Service America.

This is the second project at Eastern Neck, a 2,286-acre island located north of Kent Narrows at the confluence of Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay. The refuge is home to diamondback terrapins, bald

eagles, snowy egrets, black ducks, wood ducks, great blue herons, green-backed herons and river otters, among others.

This project is one of several similar projects where the Corps is using dredged material for a beneficial use.

Poplar Island is being restored to its 1847 footprint; Hart-Miller Island will have a wildlife refuge; Barren Island was planted last year and will be planted again this summer.



*Bob Blama, Operations, prepares to add fertilizer while Jeff Trulick, Executive Office, chooses a plant.*



*Rep. Wayne Gilchrest, 1st Congressional District, and Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., plant at the Wetland Restoration Demonstration Day.*



*A volunteer adds fertilizer.*



*A young volunteer sits while planting marsh grasses. Most of the volunteers planting during the week of April 24-28 were students from a local high school recruited by FishAmerica and Youth Service America. Friends of Eastern Neck and members of the Aquarium's Conservation Team trained volunteers in planting techniques and demonstrated how they will monitor the restored site.*

**Photos by Susanne Bledsoe**

# 'Future' engineers check out the Corps

by Marshall Hudson  
Public Affairs Office

Approximately 50 children of Baltimore District employees came to work with their parents the morning of April 25 to learn more about the Corps of Engineers.

An outgrowth of the "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" program, the Corps has been hosting a day for all children between the ages of 8 and 15 to come to work with their parents since 1998.

This year's program emphasized the theme of environmental awareness and highlighted some of the Corps projects that work closely with nature.

"In the past, kids came in and spent the day with their parents, not really giving them a chance to see what we do as an agency," said Kim Jirsa, budget analyst in Military Programs and Project management, who coordinated the event for the Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

"There are so many great careers here at the Corps; we wanted to expose them to as many jobs as possible," she said.

After visiting their individual parent's workstation, the kids went to Fort McHenry. There, they watched the night-to-day flag changing ceremony.

Other activities included a nature walk at a nearby property where the Corps has created wetlands. They also learned about animal habitat, bird banding and soil identification.

The rain forced the cancellation of some of the more hands-on activities. A trash pick-up to show the kids how litter on the streets eventually reaches the Chesapeake Bay and to reinforce how everyone can help the environment had been planned.

One event that allowed the kids to actively participate was a class on archaeology taught by Ken Baumgardt, an archaeologist from Planning Division. Baumgardt explained what he does, and he also handed out

grab bags containing shells, rocks, fossils, pottery shards and shark's teeth. As the kids went through their bags, they talked about where and why the Corps would look for these items.

"I enjoyed doing it," said Baumgardt. "Giving the bags of artifacts to the kids was a one time thing because I gave out all that I had, but it may lead to one child seriously considering this as a career. That would make it worth it."

Jirsa said she hopes to make next year's program even more hands-on and exciting. Plans are just beginning, but she said two things are definite.

"They will learn, and they will have fun," she said.

Jirsa added, "And parents should make sure they get plenty of sleep the night before they come because they will be tired when they get home!"

Baltimore was not the only place in the District where kids came to work with their parents.

Kelley and Megan Harrington went to work with their father, Jude Harrington, acting operations manager at Jennings Randolph Lake.

The girls learned about water testing and other operations, but the highlight of the day was the inspection of the playground.

In recognition of National Safe Playground Week, the girls used the Consumer Products Safety Commission inspection guidelines to check playground equipment at the lake for safety. They measured safety zones, looked for potential head entrapment spaces and checked for protruding points that could cause an injury.



Operations Division personnel talk to the kids about the Corps' work in saving or creating wetlands. The group visited a wetlands area near Fort McHenry.

# ERRO hits a bullseye for the environment

by Marshall Hudson  
Public Affairs Office

All Corps Districts have projects that improve the environment, but Baltimore District has so much work on environmental projects that it has a field office specifically dedicated to that mission.

ERRO, the Environmental Remediation Resident Office, located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., handles all large restoration projects for the District in Maryland, Delaware and Washington, D.C.

Originally a construction field office, ERRO is still part of Construction Division, but its mission changed about 10 years ago when the quantity of environmental work increased so significantly it became a strain on the area offices.

ERRO now takes the District's projects that call for extraordinary protective measures in heavily contaminated areas, said Bruce Ware, resident engineer.

"The field offices still do smaller jobs, like asbestos and lead abatement, and they could do this work too, but it would not be as efficient," said Ware.

"Experience with these types of jobs and regulatory requirements, including extensive annual refresher training, working with hazardous materials and medical monitoring, made consolidating all of the large environmental restoration projects in one office the best way to do business."

The annual operating budget for the roughly 20 employees there varies from \$25 million to \$50 million a year as projects go



Workers at Lauderick Creek, Md., place sandbags around a barricade before detonating an unexploded munition.  
U.S. Army photo

through their life cycles. Last year the office did over \$40 million of work.

ERRO's missions include ordnance and explosive removal, remediation at hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste sites and Superfund projects, and environmental oversight for the EPA.

Some of its large current projects are chemical contamination and unexploded ordnance removal at Forts Ritchie and Detrick and Lauderick Creek, Md.; radioactive decontamination at Dupont Chambers Works, N.J., and W.R. Grace in Baltimore, both FUSRAP, or Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, projects; and the cleanup of the Nike Missile Site at Tolchester, Md.

They are also involved in the arsenic cleanup at Spring Valley in Washington, D.C.

The work keeps ERRO person-



Wearing level A protection, workers excavate a medical waste pit at area B-11, Fort Detrick, Md.  
U.S. Army photo

nel very busy, but it brings them a great feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment, according to Ware.

He added that just quarantining these sites and allowing them to remediate themselves over time is not a realistic option.

"It would take such a long time for that to happen, and it would be a horror if someone were exposed to this stuff. The risk of that happening makes the idea of just leaving it unacceptable," he said.

# Agnes

(continued from p. 1)

But Agnes was not through yet.

She moved across Georgia and the Carolinas, intensifying as she passed along the Virginia and New Jersey coasts. On June 22, she turned inland near New York City and headed across southern New York and northern Pennsylvania. Agnes joined a large low-pressure system in Pennsylvania and turned in a circle over a giant area of the mid-Atlantic region for about three days. Throughout her short life, she had been characterized by heavy rains. Now, she would become famous for it.

Agnes' rainfall totaled over 28 trillion gallons. Nearly half of that fell in Pennsylvania and New York, which had been soaked by earlier June rains. Swollen rivers, creeks, streams and reservoirs surged, overtopping levees built to withstand 100-year flood events.

"The summer before Agnes

was dry," said Engineering Division's Ken Downey. "The Susquehanna was low. I stood on top of a levee, high above the water, and I remember thinking, 'if there's ever a flood that comes up *this* high, I want to see it.'"

There was, and he did.

Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley was one of the areas hard hit. The Susquehanna River crested at 40.9 feet, over five feet above the highest existing flood protection structures. The river covered more than 48 square miles of the valley.

Downey pointed out that the Corps' projects did not fail. There was simply more water than they were designed to handle, and they were overtopped.

"It's just like pouring six gallons of water into a five-gallon bucket," he said. "It will overflow."

Flooding damaged over 25,000

homes and apartments and left 80,000 people homeless. It inundated more

than 2,700 businesses and forced 11,000 people out of work. It wreaked havoc on utilities, churches, levees, bridges and farmland. In its wake, it left one million tons of debris and more than \$1 billion in damage.

Downey was among the first District employees to deploy to Wyoming Valley. He is also one of the few Baltimore District employees still at work who went to the field in response to the emergency situations created all over the region by Agnes.

"It was like a war," Downey said. "I wouldn't trade the experience for anything, but I wouldn't want it repeated either."

Their two-fold mission was to clear debris and rebuild damaged levees, Downey explained. The telephone lines available were often jammed, so they also relayed messages to and from concerned relatives via ham radios.

Bob Lindner, now chief of Planning Division, also deployed immediately and well remembers the pain of the



A soldier helps to install a Bailey Bridge.



One of the trailer parks the Corps designed and built.



people who suffered because of Agnes.

"People lost everything—homes, possessions that couldn't be replaced—photos, wills, birth certificates, linens from ancestors. A lot of family history was lost," he said.

Lindner remains proud of how the Corps responded.

"Corps employees wrote contracts literally on the hoods of trucks," he said. As people cleaned up after the storm, they placed their debris in the streets. Hundreds of contractors were hired to pick up the trash and haul it away. When the refuse was removed, the streets filled again with more debris to be gathered and carted away. This continued for weeks.

Wyoming Valley was not the only area struggling with the aftereffects of Agnes. Throughout the eastern seaboard, thousands of miles of rivers and streams flooded. A half million people lost an estimated 116,000 homes, 2,400 farm buildings and 5,800 businesses. Property losses exceeded \$2.5 billion.

A significant amount of that damage and destruction occurred within Baltimore District's area of responsibility. From New York State to Washington, D.C., flooding was widespread.

Regina Wheeler, Contracting Division, helped set up and run an emergency office in an Ellicott City, Md., school. That office assisted with the cleanup and restoration of an area flooded by the Patapsco River. The city lost its bridge, a railroad trestle was wrecked, the tracks were washed away, and many homes and businesses were ruined or destroyed.

"It looked like a giant monster had come through and crushed



*A house is demolished. The Corps bulldozed thousands of similar buildings.*



*A debris-filled street. One of the Corps' jobs was to remove debris.*

everything," Wheeler said, describing what she saw during a helicopter ride.

"The Corps doesn't hesitate to step in," she said. "I'm glad I had the opportunity to go out and see field operations first hand. It's eye opening."

Lindner and Downey agree that the perception of flood protection took a U-turn following Agnes. The Corps built flood control projects that some people believed were unnecessary. Maintenance belonged to the nonfederal sponsor and was not always viewed as a priority. The projects and their maintenance

both took on new importance after Agnes.

"The legacy of Agnes," Lindner said, "is a greater respect for the river and what the river can do."

One of several efforts to improve flood protection in the region that resulted from Agnes is the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising project, due to be completed by the end of the year. Other outcomes include rigorous dam safety programs and ongoing work to safeguard existing flood protection projects.

Agnes, a powerful storm, turned out to be a powerful teacher, too.

# Two employees train to support war fighting mission

Story and photo by  
Brian H. Temple  
Europe District Public Affairs

Corps employees from four East coast districts spent 11 days in Wiesbaden, Germany, this past March training to support the Army's war fighting mission.

Almost a dozen employees from the New York, Baltimore, New England and Philadelphia districts joined Europe District workers in integrating their skills into Field Force Engineering.

Field Force Engineering is the movement to marry technology with the organization's talent pool to serve the combat engineer downrange. It's designed to help deployed engineers with the planning and designing of infrastructure, environmental assistance, real estate acquisition and contract construction and assistance.

Spending 12- to 14-hour days learning pre-deployment protocol, squeezing into chemical and biological protective masks, and studying advanced tele-engineering systems helped these civilians better understand how they support soldiers in the field, as well as the expectations placed on them.

Allen Forman, a project engineer for the D.C. Schools in the Central Washington Area Office, volunteered to become a member of the Infrastructure Assessment Team, or IAT.

Although Forman attended training last

year and participated in pre-deployment training for Kosovo two years ago, he wanted to expand his experiences and see which technologies the Army was using today.

"This year was more 'hands on' ... working with the available equipment," said Forman. "It has tremendous potential once you know how to use it. The learning curve was not just steep, it was very steep."

Forman defined the IAT's role as "looking over, identifying and recommending the best place to 'do it', whatever 'it' may be."

He found that participating in the training has helped him experience putting together a team in a hurry, and he had a glimpse of how the Army works.

Pat Sampsel, a construction manager who serves as the Central Washington Area Office representative to the District for the D.C. Schools Program, said

the exercise helped him understand what the military goes through to deploy.

"It was interesting to see how the military does its business. Everyone should know what the Corps is doing to support the Army mission," Sampsel said.

Capt. Scot W. Greig, a research and development coordinator for the Engineer Research and Development Center, or ERDC, played a key part in familiarizing the teams with the technical side of Field Force Engineering. He trained them on reconnaissance and surveillance systems.

"It was interesting teaching primarily civilians. I thought I would be driving my point home and pressuring them to learn my way of doing things."

"Through their eyes I saw that there are different ways to approach the mission," Greig said.

He cited an example of a force protection reconnaissance mis-

sion where the civilians wanted to get diagrams of water systems. However, he wanted to pull up manhole covers and drop down to look in order to make an assessment. He explained that both approaches are valid and that his experience with the infantry would naturally give him a different approach.

Greig said the exercise was certainly an exchange of ideas.

"I came from a very different perspective, and somewhere in the middle is where we met," Greig said.



Pat Sampsel (left) and Allen Forman (right) squeeze into their chemical and biological masks with guidance from Staff Sgt. Jay Smith, a force protection non-commissioned officer from North Atlantic District, during pre-deployment training in Wiesbaden, Germany.

## Salt marsh dedicated in memory of former District employee

by Doug Garman  
Public Affairs Office

**D**uring a special dedication ceremony May 13, Baltimore District and Worcester County, Md., officials celebrated the restoration of 6.5 acres of salt marsh at the Ocean Pines residential community. They also dedicated the marshlands in memory of A.J. Corts, a Baltimore District construction inspector for this project, who died suddenly last October.

"A.J. was the District's eyes and ears for this restoration project," said Chris Correale, Operations Division chief and Corts' supervisor. "Instrumental in the success of this project, he took a design that existed on paper and made it a reality."

Corts, a member of the District for nine years, was responsible for managing the day-to-day construction opera-

tions of the project. This involved overseeing the removal of 20,000 cubic yards of fill material that had been placed in the original salt marshes during early construction of the Ocean Pines community in the 1960s and before the establishment of federal and state wetland regulatory programs.

Following the removal of the material, the areas were graded to historic intertidal elevations. Tidal creeks were created to enhance the tidal water flow through the marsh areas, and the areas were re-vegetated with native salt marsh plants.

"This salt marsh restoration effort is the first of its kind in Maryland's Coastal Bay watershed and represents the first increase in salt marsh acreage in the state in the past three centuries," said Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., District commander.

The idea to restore these lands began in the late 1990s, as part of

the Corps' study of the Ocean City and vicinity water resources. The project was further developed under Section 206 of the Corps' Continuing Authorities Program, a program that provides the Corps with the opportunity to design and build these types of environmental restoration projects. In January 2001, the Corps signed a project cooperation agreement with Worcester County, and construction began in July.

Marshland habitats benefit the environment by filtering contaminants, capturing harmful sediments, enhancing water quality and providing nesting areas for a variety of species.

Baltimore District is currently partnering with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to restore a similar salt marsh area at Isle of Wight in Ocean City, Md.

## Colonel helps Fort Meade celebrate opening of new ESC

Baltimore District Engineer Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., helped cut the ribbon to officially open the Fort Meade Emergency Services Center May 6.

The building was completed last summer, but the security constraints that followed the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks forced the postponement of a ceremony until now.

"This building was constructed to replace the old, inadequate and scattered emergency services facilities on this post," Fiala said during the

ceremony. He described the project as an important step in dovetailing the needs of the Fort Meade community with the services required to sustain it.

The new 23,488 square-foot facility houses the post's fire fighting, emergency medical response and law enforcement resources.

It co-locates those assets for the first time and places them closer to the housing areas. It also provides improved working conditions for those who provide this vital support.

The \$6 million facility was constructed under a design-build contract awarded to Coakley Williams Construction, Gaithersburg, Md. Construction began in April 2000. The Fort Meade emergency services units began occupying the building in late July 2001.

Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin and Anne Arundel County Executive Janet Owens were among the dignitaries gathered for the long anticipated ceremony.

## ***Blob's Park, site of District Organization Day picnic***

Blob's Park in Jessup, Md., is the scene of this year's District Organization Day picnic June 14.

The festivities begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m.

A ticket will buy unlimited food and soft drinks and costs \$8 for Corps employees; \$10 for non-Corps, age 12 and over; \$5 for children, age 11 and under. Beer is \$2.

The menu includes hot dogs, hamburgers, fried chicken, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, chips, cookies and ice cream.

Activities for kids are Moon Bounce, Cecil the Sea Monster, Spin Art, Plinko, Crazy Ball, face painting, tic-tac-toe and many other games, some with prizes.

For adults, there is soccer, softball, horseshoes, dancing to DJ Randy and, new this year, an auto show. There will also be a number of door prizes.



## **Sunscreen doesn't protect against cancer**

Do people think they can spend long hours in the sun because sunscreen will protect them from skin cancer?

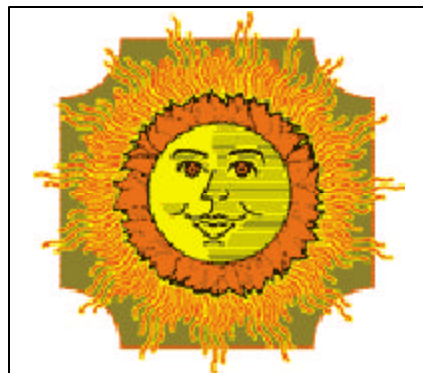
Sunscreens may be giving people a false sense of security. Sunburn protection is not the same as cancer protection.

Doctors say melanoma seems to be associated with the intense, intermittent exposure to sunlight that happens on vacations, rather than the chronic, day-in, day-out sun exposure experienced by outdoor workers. Some researchers say one explanation for the rising number of U.S. melanoma cases is that more people go on winter vacations in warm, sunny places.

They theorize that intermittent

sun exposure does just enough damage to the DNA of pigment-producing cells, from which melanoma grows, to mutate them but not kill them off.

An article published in the Archives of Dermatology listed 11 studies of sunscreen use and melanoma that showed a link between the two.



The only apparent explanation is people are spending more time in the sun thinking they are completely protected. But also keep in mind that these studies concerned only melanoma, the most serious but least common of sun-associated skin cancer.

For every case of melanoma, there are at least 20 cases of basal cell or squamous cell carcinoma.

If you are going to be in the sun, wear sunscreen. When you go to the beach, use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor of at least 15. But remember that it's best to stay out of the sun at midday or at least limit your time under old sol.

# Centerpoint project promises improvement

by Marshall Hudson  
Public Affairs Office

The area north of the City Crescent Building was once part of Baltimore's premiere shopping district, but in recent decades, it has succumbed to severe neglect and decay.

Developers of Centerpoint, a \$71 million project to refurbish the entire block inside Baltimore, Howard, Fayette and Eutaw streets, promise things are about to change.

The project will remake the block across the street from the District headquarters with luxury apartments, retail stores, restaurants and a new parking garage.

"It will never be what it once was, but in less than two years, this preservation-based redevelopment will result in a new urban residential community," said Maria Johnson, West side redevelopment officer for Bank of America.

"It will be a vibrant place

where people can live, work, eat and shop in an atmosphere that is safe and enjoyable," she said.

The developers expect a decrease in crime when residents start moving into the area.

The developers, Bank of America and the Harold A. Dawson Company, in association with Turner Construction, have already begun work on the project.

The recently erected chainlink fence around the block is now protecting passersby and workers who are performing asbestos and lead abatement, and who will soon start demolition.

The construction will have an impact on those living and working near the block, said Tom Kobelinski, executive for Turner Construction.

"We will try to be sensitive to the needs of the community, but everyone should understand that 200 to 250 construction workers will park, eat and shop here while the job is being done,

and there's no way around that," said Kobelinski.

He added that the company is always willing to try to accommodate its neighbors and keep everyone informed of activities that might be disruptive.

The main entrance and exit to the construction site will be across the street from the CCB on Baltimore Street where an open parking lot is now.

The only building on Baltimore Street slated for demolition is the one on the corner of Baltimore and Eutaw streets, said Johnson.

A 400-space parking garage will eventually be erected across the street from the CCB.

The remainder of the buildings in the block will be restored to make over 380 apartments on the top floors and retail shops and restaurants on the ground level.

The project is expected to be completed by the summer of 2004. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony June 6.



An artist's rendering of the renovated Baltimore Street buildings across the street from the City Crescent Building.

## Two Operations employees receive F.E.B. gold awards

Two Baltimore District employees received the top awards at the May 6 Federal Executive Board's annual awards banquet at Martins West, Baltimore.

Walter Washington, Operations, received the gold award in his category, Outstanding Supervisor Grades 13 and above. April Hipkins, Operations, received the gold award as Rookie of the Year.

Washington supervises an interdisciplinary staff of 15 biologists, ecologists and administrative staff. His supervisor cited his knowledge of the regulatory program in a 15-county area in Maryland, his excellent mediation skills, his

sense of fair play and humor, as well as his genuine concern for other people as reasons for his selection.

Hipkins began working for the Corps as a temporary clerical employee in Regulatory Branch.

She quickly taught herself how to use the complex databases of the branch as well as the Corps financial database. She became so proficient in one of the branch databases that more senior administrative assistants now come to her for help.

After nine months as a temporary employee, Hipkins became permanent in the Regulatory Branch.

## Baltimore heroes

*Although you might tend to see heroes as those who perform courageous acts during emergencies, heroes are also those who, day after day, provide outstanding support to the District, the Corps and the Army. Baltimore District overflows with such heroes. They include:*

**Richard P. White**, OC, gave excellent legal defense for the Corps and the Army on an appeal of a Court of Federal Claims ruling that had gone in favor of the contractor. In a situation where there is often great pressure to settle or to not appeal an adverse decision, White, working closely with the Department of Justice, was instrumental in developing the government's case and presenting it effectively to the Federal Circuit. As a result of his efforts, the U.S. Court of Appeals reversed the lower court's decision and ruled in favor of the government.

**Manal Ezzat**, PPMD, played a key role in the Pentagon before and after Sept. 11, 2001. She handled the procurement of the blast resistant windows installed as part of the Pentagon Renovation project, and led a Corps of Engineers team that discovered the building's exterior walls were its weakest element. It was the resulting steel reinforcement in the Pentagon's walls that saved many lives. Ezzat knew almost everyone who died. Yet, in the week following the attack, she led a Corps of Engineers team in establishing temporary office space for over 1,200 Army personnel displaced by the assault.

## Pentagon Memorial planning begins

Baltimore District recently announced that there will be a design competition for an outdoor memorial at the Pentagon to honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack.

"It will be a two-stage design competition," project manager Carol Anderson-Austra said.

"Initially, all entries will be judged, and perhaps a half-dozen semi-finalists will be chosen. These concept designs will then be further developed before a final design selection is made.

"A jury of highly-respected professionals will select the final design, with input from the victims' families and others, and with Pentagon review," she said.

Congress authorized the Department of Defense to establish a memorial at the Pentagon Reservation dedicated to the victims of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

DoD asked the Army to take on the project. Subsequently, Corps headquarters assigned the project to Baltimore District.

Family members of the victims, a Family Steering Committee, were included in an evaluation of 10 potential sites suggested by the Corps. Washington Headquarters Services at the Pentagon made the final decision that the memorial will be constructed near the point of impact.

## Flag Day's special meaning this year

Perhaps more than at any time in the U.S. history, since Sept. 11 the American flag has been the uniting symbol of this nation. You can see it on lapels, waving from cars, and flying proudly over buildings.

It's always been true that the emotions of Americans move deeply at the sight of Old Glory. But this year it means Americans stand together against terrorism, and it means fighting and rebuilding are ongoing. It's the symbol of everything the country stands for. Each time



you see the flag, it reminds you who you are and the price many have paid to keep the nation free.

This is a country where men and women are judged only by their own accomplishments. This is a land where citizens are free to choose their place of worship, elect their officials, and, if they want, run for office themselves.

The flag personifies the kind of country that shapes heroes like those who landed on D-Day, who fought wars that brought or preserved freedom, and who gave their lives Sept. 11 at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

As you honor the flag June 14, the American Legion recalls these words of Henry Cuyler Bunner:

*"Off with your hat as the flag goes by!  
And let the heart have its way.  
You're strong enough for a tear in your eye  
That you will not wipe away."*

## District employees help tornado victims

Several days after the destructive tornado struck LaPlata, Md., Baltimore District sent the debris removal management cell to help with debris removal.

On May 1 Rodgers Hagert and Maria DeLa Torre, both from CO; Joseph Hollshwander, OP, and Jay Hersey, PL, deployed to LaPlata to provide technical assistance and quality control support to the State of Maryland and the local government at the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Jennell Pruitt, SA, deployed five days later. On May 10 Joseph Lease, James Baron, Steve Wood and Roberta Adams, all of EN; Steve Kopeckey, PL and Ronnell Frederick, LO, deployed.

The EOC operated on extended hours beginning in May with Kelly Marshall, Andrea Bias-Streat and Gilbert Dent on duty.

The tornado, one of the strongest recorded in Maryland, resulted in damage estimated at approximately \$120 million. The State of Maryland has pledged \$3.1 million for recovery efforts.

## Courteous employee of the month

"Cassandra Jackson is a program support specialist in Design Branch, Engineering Division.



Cassandra Jackson

"Cassandra assists the branch chief in administering the branch's budget. Her good natured personality is recognized not only by her peers but also management.

"Cassandra is one of those rare individuals who always goes out of her way to assist those around her and is willing to help those who are new to the organization. In addition, her can-do attitude is there every day of the week."

Ron Maj  
Chief, Design Branch  
Engineering Division

## New postal rate

In late March, a postal-rate panel gave approval for a 3-cent increase, to 37 cents, in the price of a first-class stamp. The new rates will be in effect on or about June 30. Other rates will rise as well.

## Get cheap trees

Send \$10 for a membership in the National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb. 68410, and you will receive 10 flowering trees selected for your area.



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Official Business



### Correction...

On page 7 of the May 2002 *Constellation*, entitled, *The Potomac Watershed*, the correct figure for the Potomac Watershed is 14,670 square miles, covering four states, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The Chesapeake Bay watershed is 64,000 square miles and covers six states. We regret the error.