



CONSTELLATION

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Fort Myer dedicates military's largest Child Development Center

Story and photos
by **David Ruderman**
Public Affairs Office

The acting undersecretary of the Army and a squad of senior military leaders converged at Fort Myer, Va., July 15 to celebrate the opening of the largest Child Development Center (CDC) in the Defense Department.

Constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, under a contract with the Grunley Construction Co. Inc., the 50,831 square foot, \$17 million facility opened for business — and play — in late June.

“This new Child Development Center is the largest worldwide,” said Fort Myer Garrison Commander Col. Laura J. Richardson. “It has three wings, 28 rooms, three playgrounds and a multi-purpose room. The center has space for 438 children. That’s a lot of kids.”

This project is obviously the culmination of many teams working together to achieve one goal, said Richardson.

“Thanks particularly to the Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, to Col. Peter Mueller and his team,” said Maj. Gen.

Richard J. Rowe Jr., Commanding General, U.S. Army Military District of Washington and senior commander of the Fort Myer Military Community. “You did this very well, very safely and delivered it in a quality way. Thanks, Pete. Thanks very much.”

Baltimore District finished the design-build project in about 14 months, said Andrew Off, the District’s resident engineer at Fort Myer. The Corps team had to address requirements not commonly encountered in military projects, such as using edible caulk in construction, he said.

“We certainly paid more attention to detail in terms of standards for child development centers,” said Off. “They’re very unique requirements.”

Project Engineer Jose Burgos said the CDC is a very secure building.

As dignitaries spoke, scores of children and their caregivers observed the ceremony from a tent set to one side of the podium. Sporting light blue T-shirts distributed for the occasion, they waited

their turn to blow bubbles in a symbolic opening launch.

“Children, you are much more quiet and well behaved than the Army general staff, I can tell you that,” said Gen. Richard

(continued on page 3)



(From left to right) Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe; Staff Sgt. Nakeysha Jacobs and her son Jaylen; Gen. Richard A. Cody; Air Force Lt. Col. Deborah Drenth and her children Mateo, Maria and Gabriel Luciano; the Honorable Nelson M. Ford; Col. Laura J. Richardson; Alicia Kennedy and her son Robert; and CDC director Jamie Ruffini, cut the ribbon for the Department of Defense's newest and largest Child Development Center at Fort Myer, Va., July 15.

In
this
issue:

Chief of Engineers visits District's projects



Page 4

A District employee's big award



Page 8



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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Commander's Comment

Safety — Searching for Star Status!

By Col. Peter W. Mueller
Commander and District Engineer

How many times as a child, young adult or parent have you experienced someone spilling milk at the dinner table and everyone chimes in, “*Why don’t you pay attention to what you are doing?!*” While this oversimplifies the complex nature of our work environment in the Baltimore District, the same response can apply to the great majority of injuries that have occurred in our workplace or on our project sites.

Situational awareness is a crucial element for avoidance of workplace accidents and injuries, but there are many other things we do to ensure a safe work environment. Our safety kitbag includes a full array of tools — our District Safety Management Action Plan, our activity hazard analysis, daily safety reminders, follow-up actions from our safety survey, safety meetings, safety training, inspections and, of course, leadership. It sounds like a long laundry list, but there is never enough we can do to preserve our health and safety, as long as we ensure the tools are value added.

In our effort to continually assess how we can move from *Good to Great* in our business, we identified another tool for our safety program. We are employing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). We’re phasing into this program starting with the Construction Division and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Integrated Program Office at Fort Belvoir, Va.

What is VPP? The Voluntary Protection Program promotes effective worksite-based safety and health. It is a formal accreditation of our existing processes, programs and procedures. It focuses on four key elements — Leadership and Employee Involvement; Worksite Analysis; Hazard Prevention and Control; and Safety and Health Training.

How Does VPP Work? In practice, OSHA, the

Department of Defense (DoD) VPP Center of Expertise and the District Safety Office set performance-based criteria for a managed safety and health system. Once implemented, OSHA will invite us to apply for recognition. They will then assess the District against these criteria. OSHA and DoD’s verification includes an application review and a rigorous onsite evaluation by a team of DoD and OSHA safety and health experts. Bottom line, once we meet the criteria, our safety and health program will be *Great* and we will receive national recognition by OSHA and the Department of Labor. Approval into VPP will be OSHA’s official recognition of the outstanding efforts of the District’s employees to achieve exemplary occupational safety and health or “Star Status.”

How will VPP improve worker safety and health in the Baltimore District? Statistical evidence for VPP’s success is impressive. The average VPP worksite has a Days Away Restricted or Transferred case rate 52 percent below the average for its industry. We believe we can benefit within the Baltimore District in a similar manner. By taking a look at what have become some of businesses best safety practices and applying them to our operations in Construction Division and the NGA project, we will learn firsthand. In turn, we will apply these lessons and practices across the District and thus benefit our entire workforce.

The good news is that the initial evaluation by the DoD team has identified we are starting ahead of the typical organization. Many of our processes and programs already reflect best practices. This is a great evaluation of how we operate. This journey will produce a safer work environment, reduced costs and increase morale and productivity.

It takes all of us to establish and maintain a safe work environment. So I ask you to do your part in this journey. “*Pay attention to what you are doing!*” And please don’t spill the milk!

Army Strong, Engineer Ready, ESSAYONS!

Fort Myer Child Development Center (continued from the cover)

A. Cody, vice chief of staff, U.S. Army. “They usually talk all through my briefings.”

On a more serious note, Cody said the new center put Soldiers front and center.

“This CDC is a tangible sign of our commitment, not only to our Soldiers, but to our Soldiers’ Families. Less than one percent of Americans are actually serving to defend and protect our Nation, our prosperity and our way of life,” he said. “Even our children serve in their own way. They share their mothers and fathers with all of America to keep us safe and free.”

“Army Families have over 700,000 children, many of them under the age of two,” said the Honorable Nelson M. Ford, who is the acting undersecretary of the Army and assistant secretary of the Army



Lead Program Assistant Lolita C. Smith works with school-age children in the activity room of the new Fort Myer Child Development Center July 15.



Gen. Richard A. Cody, vice chief of staff, U.S. Army, addresses guests at a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 15 for the new Child Development Center constructed by the Baltimore District at Fort Myer, Va.

for Financial Management and Comptroller. “You recruit Soldiers, but you retain Families. This CDC is just one example of that.”

An additional 25 centers will be built across the Army in the year ahead, he said.

“This Army may be stretched, but this Army is strong. Thanks to our Soldiers and Families for all you do,” said Cody.

After a ceremonial ribbon cutting, youngsters blew soap bubbles in salute and guests toured the center and enjoyed refreshments.

Quick Poll: What is the most valuable contribution of the new Child Development Center to the Fort Myer Military Community?



Maj. Gen. Richard Rowe Jr.
Commanding General, U.S. Army
Military District of Washington
and senior commander, FMMC

“It provides a statement about our commitment to our military and civilian workforce, that they are important and so are their children.”



Tabetha Moore
Assistant Teacher
FMMC Youth Services

“It allows more availability for military families for their precious loved ones, their precious cargo.”



Alison Kerr
Architect for Fort Myer CDC
Engineering Division

“It provided needed classrooms, caregiving and playground facilities for the Fort Myer Families.”

Chief of Engineers visits the District, helps brief Brazilian general

By Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

Water supply to Washington D.C., and the northern Virginia region has been an important and unique mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 1853, which makes the chief of Engineers' visit to the Washington Aqueduct June 5 and his recognition of some of its key employees a very special event.

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp spent the afternoon experiencing first-hand how Washington Aqueduct conducts its business with the customers and learning their process of ensuring the water they deliver is safe, reliable and cost effective for the customer.

"We wanted him to have confidence in the ability of Washington Aqueduct to produce drinking water and to understand how Washington Aqueduct is essentially 'forward deployed' in our current mission to ensure the uninterrupted supply of water — regardless of any natural or hostile attempt to interrupt it," said Tom Jacobus, chief the Washington Aqueduct. "It was also a chance to have them interact with the chief."

Van Antwerp acknowledged the superior work of four members of the Washington Aqueduct team. Lee Fisher and Jeff Smith, who work in the Maintenance Branch, and Ray Moton and Ricky Davie, who work in the Plant Operations Branch, all received Commander's Coins for their accomplishments.

"He left with a high degree of confidence in the capabilities of



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Tom Jacobus (far left), chief of Washington Aqueduct, briefs Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, chief of Engineers (middle) in the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant Control Room as Dave Lunden, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition engineer (second left) and John Cook, a water treatment plant operator (far right), look on.



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Ed Hughes, program manager for the Spring Valley project, talks with Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, chief of Engineers, and Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander, during his visit to the project site.

the work force and its dedication to the mission of producing water safely and reliably," said Jacobus.

Van Antwerp also toured the nearby Spring Valley formerly used defense site, received a briefing from the project delivery team and visited one of the ongoing dig sites — Pit 3.

"The Chief of Engineers wanted to learn more about two highly visible, vital Corps of Engineers projects being executed by the Baltimore District in our Nation's Capitol," said Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander. "He also wanted to do what he loves most, meeting and thanking the great people who are getting the hard work done for the Corps Team each day."

The Washington Aqueduct and Spring Valley visits were followed on June 10 by a tour of the Baltimore District with Van Antwerp and his counterpart, Gen. Marius Luiz Carvalho from the Brazilian Department of Engineering and Construction of the Brazilian Army Engineers.

The Brazilian general headed a delegation of five officers who came to the District to learn about our organization, structure, missions and strategic direction.

After meeting with Van Antwerp and Mueller, the Brazilian delegation traveled to Fort Meade, Md., where they were briefed by Daria Van Liew, Bay Area Office chief, on the structure and operation of the Integrated Program Office, and toured the Corps-constructed Freedom Inn dining facility.

Their visit also included a tour of the Library of Congress controlled environment archive being constructed on Fort Meade by Baltimore District, where the senior leaders were briefed by Sheree Castain, project manager, before traveling to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to observe Corps operations and activities.

Keeping the District safe: Security

By Jennifer Walsh

Public Affairs Office

Thirty-four years ago, Tony Santiago-Rios was walking down a street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, when he came across a U.S. Army recruiting station. Struck by inspiration, he turned to his girlfriend and said, “I think I’m going to join the Army.”

“The next day I went [to the recruiting station] and took the test,” said Santiago-Rios, chief of Security. “Nine days later, I was in Fort Jackson, S.C.”

Santiago-Rios stayed in the Army for two years, then returned to Puerto Rico and joined the National Guard while he attended the Catholic University of Puerto Rico. Almost three years later, he returned to active duty and became an intelligence analyst. He spent the next 22.5 years in the Army, but retired in 2000 to be a security specialist at Baltimore District.

“This [security] was part of my job in the Army,” said Santiago-Rios. “It’s like I took my uniform off and came to work here.”

In 2005, he became chief of Security at Baltimore District.

As the chief, Santiago-Rios is responsible for managing all the security aspects associated with Baltimore District and the other federal tenants in the City Crescent Building (CCB).

The Security Office focuses on key aspects of security — information, personnel, industrial, physical, the Operational Security Program (OPSEC) and anti-terrorism force protection.

Information security refers to securing classified information. This includes the storage, destruction, accountability and proper transmission of classified information.

Personnel security, which Santiago-Rios said is one of the



(Photo by Katisha Draughn, Public Affairs)

Tony Santiago-Rios, chief of the Security Office, takes fingerprints from Kimberly Matthews, CO, as part of her new employee background investigation.

most time-consuming aspects of the office, focuses on processing background investigations and resolving security clearance investigation issues.

The industrial aspect of security becomes important when Department of Defense contractors are awarded classified contracts. The Security Office ensures the appropriate paperwork is filed so the company and its employees receive the proper level of security clearance while they are fulfilling their contractual obligations, said Santiago-Rios.

Physical security refers to the protection of property and personnel. This includes oversight of the security guards in the CCB, providing protection for the inside and area surrounding the CCB and providing physical security for District dams.

The office also promotes OPSEC, which encourages employees to proactively guard information from adversaries by practicing security habits, such as shredding sensitive, unclassified documents.

The final aspect of security is anti-terrorism force protection, which refers to the measures taken to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and property to terrorist acts. According to Santiago-Rios, these measures include random security screenings at the CCB’s lobby, garage entrance and loading docks during higher Force Protection Condition levels.

Although the Security Office spends most of its time working on these six aspects of security, Santiago-Rios also spends time conducting security briefings, looking into email phishing scams and completing administrative work. However, one thing is more rewarding than the rest.

“The most rewarding part is making sure we stay safe.”

Did you know...

- Santiago-Rios collects Hot Wheels and has approximately 3,000 cars in his collection.
- He is a big baseball fan and his favorite team is the Atlanta Braves.
- He was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico.
- He married his childhood sweetheart 34 years ago.
- He has four grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 11 years old.

New GAO experiences another side of the Army

Story and photo
by **Katisha Draughn**
Public Affairs Office

Cynthia Lyles-Quinn has worked with Soldiers her entire career. Upon learning she would be working with the Corps of Engineers, she realized a whole new experience awaited her.

Lyles-Quinn came to the Baltimore District May 12 as the new Government Affairs Officer (GAO). Since then, she has constantly engaged in everything from congressional meetings to project review board meetings to visits to Capitol Hill.

“It has been a great experience so far,” she said.

Lyles-Quinn initially heard about the GAO position after two of her friends saw the job announcement and convinced her to apply.

“I have worked with Soldiers my entire career and I wanted to continue working for the Army, but doing something different,” she said.

Before putting on the District’s GAO hat, Lyles-Quinn worked as the First Army Division East Public Affairs Officer (PAO) at Fort Meade, Md. Her other work experience includes the National Capital Region Directorate of Information Management Business Development PAO; Fort Meade Garrison Deputy and Acting PAO; Fort Meade Garrison Community

Relations PAO; Bons Secours Baltimore Health System Public Relations Specialist; and a Department of the Army Public Affairs and Communications intern.

“When I began to prepare for the job interview, I realized how much the Corps does with all of their projects,” she said.

Lyles-Quinn was impressed with the Corps’ work on many projects such as the Washington Aqueduct, as well as the numerous civil works projects.

“It made me realize I didn’t know as much as I thought I did as a community member,” she said.

Although Lyles-Quinn’s knowledge of the Corps of Engineers was minimal back then, she is truly making up for that now.

As the new GAO, Lyles-Quinn spends her time meeting with the District’s division and office chiefs, reviewing information on congressional meetings, reviewing project fact sheets, attending meetings for congressional staffers, reviewing the fiscal 2008 civil works index and learning about the District’s numerous projects and programs.

“It is definitely a nice change of pace,” she said. “I am learning all I can to represent the District.”

Interacting with people is something Lyles-Quinn really enjoys and it also happens to be a big part of her job.

“I can see the importance of working and talking with people, which is part of my personality,” she said.

Although Lyles-Quinn enjoys networking with people and learning about the organization, she has hit a few bumps on the road to being Corps of Engineers savvy.

“I have a list of acronyms that I am still trying to learn,” Lyles-Quinn said with a laugh. “I am also trying to understand the Corps language, which divisions have certain projects and who provides oversight for the different programs and projects.”

When she is not familiarizing herself with the Corps, Lyles-Quinn enjoys spending time with her husband of 19 years and their 13-year-old son. She loves to work in her garden, go to the movies or have movie night at home with her family, travel and attend activities at her church.

Lyles-Quinn said she is looking forward to her future with the District and taking on all the responsibilities she has as the new GAO.

“I want to make sure I continue to help the Corps maintain a positive reputation and image with political leaders and do my best to uphold the GAO’s reputation,” she said.



Cynthia Lyles-Quinn (right) and Amy Guise, chief of the civil project development branch in Planning Division, discuss different civil works processes.

Profile of a true leader: Harriet Tubman

By Jeffrey May
Contracting Division

Through the rivers of the Delmarva Peninsula — with an ever increasing bounty on her head — the woman known as the “Moses of her people” led an estimated 300 fugitive slaves to freedom. From 1850 to 1860, on more than 19 trips as a “conductor” along the “Underground Railroad,” she never lost a “passenger.” While best known for her efforts over this period, an examination of her life reveals that she was a tireless leader who refused to let any limitations deter her from her chosen endeavors.

Recent historical findings state that she was born in 1822, on a farm in Dorchester County, Md. Named Araminta at birth, Harriet Tubman’s courage was evident in her early teens when she impeded an overseer’s efforts to punish another slave. Tubman received a gash on her head from a two-pound lead weight and suffered fainting spells for the remainder of her life as a result of this early injury.

While growing up, Tubman was subject to corporal punishment and was at risk of being separated from her family and sold to other slaveholders within the region or in the deep south. She risked this type of punishment when she defied the overseer, when she first attempted to escape to the north and whenever she returned to the south seeking to lead others out of slavery.

Tubman’s success as a conductor depended upon her ability to travel light and fast, to develop and conceal routes and to employ appropriate tactics to keep her passengers together. She gave opium to babies to keep them from crying, carried infants to lighten their mothers’ load and sang to the passengers to calm them and lift their spirits. Understanding that if any escapee grew fainthearted and

returned, they would be beaten until they revealed the routes Tubman had developed. In order to persuade the fugitives to continue, she reportedly placed a revolver to their head if they threatened to turn back. Needless to say, none ever fled while she was conducting.

Tubman exhibited extraordinary courage in other actions as well, participating in a raid on a courthouse in Troy, N.Y., to free a fugitive slave who had been captured and taken to court to be returned south, volunteering as a nurse to help

the Federal Army care for slaves left behind by fleeing plantation owners and treating sick and wounded soldiers — at times with remedies she made from roots and herbs herself. In 1863, Tubman was put in charge of a band of African American scouts and river pilots to obtain information on Confederate Army troop movement.

To say that Tubman provided an example of selfless service and leadership is an understatement. While she led some of her early trips as a conductor to recover family members from the south, she frequently had to leave her aging parents at her home in Auburn, N.Y., to be attended by neighbors. She was not reimbursed for her service to the Union Army, until Congress finally passed legislation in the 1890s.

At an auction in 1896, Tubman won a 25-acre lot in

Auburn, N.Y. Always determined to assist others, she acquired the lot to build a home for sick and needy African Americans. The home was built by the AME Zion Church in 1908. Tubman moved into the home in 1911 and spent her remaining days there until she died in 1913. The many accomplishments of her life form an example of what one person can accomplish when they are determined to influence the world they live in, rather than accept it as it is.



(Courtesy photo)

Harriet Tubman exhibited many characteristics of a leader throughout her life.

District Employee earns national award

By Christopher Augsburger

Public Affairs Office

Frank Plewa calls it ‘forensic biology’ — collecting and analyzing ground data, aerial photography, technical expertise and more than 20 years experience to prove or disprove wetland regulatory compliance. But this “CSI: Wetlands” officer can add another term to his job description — the 2008 winner of the Regulatory Program National Don Lawyer Award.

This national award recognizes an outstanding non-supervisory regulator who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments that contribute to national regulatory program goals and objectives.

“Frank’s technical expertise is relied upon by his colleagues throughout the Baltimore District and the region,” said Meg Gaffney-Smith, the District’s Regulatory Branch chief. “His technical expertise in wetlands and stream ecology, aerial photo-interpretation, complex wetland delineations — including disturbed sites — is known throughout the region.”

Plewa, a senior project manager working in the District’s Regulatory Branch State College field office in Pennsylvania, said he didn’t do anything more to win this award than what he has been doing since he joined the Corps on Pearl Harbor Day 1987.

He did not win this award only because of his wealth of experience or his intricate understanding of new complex regulatory guidance — as it reads on his award nomination form — he won this award because of something he has done in one form or the other his whole life — teaching.

In June 2006, after the *Rapanos vs. United States* Supreme Court ruling, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps issued new joint guidance on how they would ensure America’s wetlands and other water bodies are protected under the Clean Water Act, including permitting and enforcement activities. Plewa, a self starter and problem solver, took it upon himself to learn and teach the new guidance to regulatory officials on local, state and federal levels, according to Gaffney-Smith.

“I worked on the nuts and bolts on how we would implement that guidance in the field,” said Plewa. “We made sure we were doing it consistently throughout the North Atlantic Division.”

As a result of Plewa’s efforts, the transition through the new jurisdictional guidance was made less complicated for regulators implementing the guidance and the regulated community and property owners that are affected by it. In addition to the guidance, Plewa is a member of the national team responsible for updating the Corps 1987 wetland delineation manual.



(Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Frank Plewa, winner of the 2008 Regulatory Program National Don Lawyer Award, prepares to install an 80-inch groundwater monitoring well during a hydrology study of Coastal Plain Wetlands in Anne Arundel County, Md.

“Frank is truly a regional wetland and stream expert who can be relied upon and can communicate the impact of these new regulations and policy on the Corps Clean Water Act program, making complex material more easily understood by his colleagues and the regulated public,” said Gaffney-Smith.

As a top enforcement officer in the regulatory branch, who constantly finds himself delivering news to landowners that eventually could cause them to lose thousands or millions of dollars, knowing the facts of the case, the regulations, relating to people and teaching them how to move forward become priceless skills.

“I’ve made friends with people who I’ve had to tell bad things to,” he said. “When you can come out of these situations with their respect or they can call you a friend, it means a lot.”

Throughout his career with the Corps, Plewa has organized more than 50 training courses for his colleagues and with other local and state agencies. He has given countless talks to a variety of audiences, from school-aged children to professional organizations to environmental officials. And as he and his wife continue on in their lives together, so, too, will his teaching.

Understanding Position Hazard Analysis

By John Houvener

Safety and Occupational Health Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Safety Manual (EM385-1-1) and the Baltimore District Safety Management Action Plan (SMAP) applies to all government operations within the District. Lately, the requirements presented in paragraph 01.A.10 of EM 385-1-1 and paragraph seven of the SMAP requiring Position Hazard Analyses (PHA's) for each employee has been in the forefront. A major part of attempting to prevent injury and illness to our employees is recognition of the hazards he/she will be faced with on a daily basis. Once identified, the appropriate control measures can be taken to minimize or even alleviate those hazards.

01.A.10 of EM 385-1-1 states: A position hazard analysis (PHA) shall be prepared, **updated as necessary**, and documented **by the supervisor of each USACE position as warranted by the hazards associated with the position's tasks. A generic PHA may be used for groups of employees performing repetitive office/administrative tasks where the primary hazards are ergonomic, lighting, light lifting and carrying and indoor air quality.**

In developing the analysis for a particular position, supervisors should draw upon the knowledge and experience of employees in that position and the Safety and Occupational Health Office.

The District Commander has directed that a PHA be developed by the supervisor for each individual employee, upon initial assignment and reviewed with the employee and updated as necessary. Because this task — work site analysis — **must be performed annually**, we recommend the supervisor perform the PHA review at the time of the employee's performance review.

You can access generic PHA's by job series at: <https://nabinfo.nab.usace.army.mil/organizations/SAFETY/PHA.htm>, choose the PHA by job series and customize it according to each particular employee's job. It must be customized for each job!

JOGGING SAFETY

A. Choose the Right Equipment

- Select shoes that fit comfortably, with extra room for toes

to allow for foot expansion when running;

- Clothes should be roomy enough to let you move freely and should "breathe" (let moisture evaporate);
- Dress as lightly as possible in porous, light fabrics; and
- Choose light-colored clothing.

B. Rules of the Road

- When jogging with others on the roadway, run in single file;
- Utilize sidewalks where available and practical;
- Always jog facing traffic;
- Use extreme caution when crossing streets and at intersections; and
- Use of headphones is prohibited while jogging on post streets.

C. When It's Hot and Humid

- Get used to heat slowly by building up (over five to seven days) to distances you may have jogged earlier. Run slowly and dress lightly. Jog during the morning or evening hours when it is coolest;
- Drink plenty of water before and during jogging; and
- Watch for danger signs such as dizziness, nausea, throbbing, etc. They may indicate heat exhaustion or heat stroke, which are extremely dangerous.



(Photo by Katisha Draughn, Public Affairs)

Steven Brown, a project manager in the Programs and Project Management Division, gets prepared to take his morning jog. Brown is wearing comfortable sneakers and is making sure they are tied securely. He is also wearing a light-colored shirt which makes him easier to see and clothes that are roomy enough for him to move freely.

ACE-IT transitions at the District

Story and photo
by **Garron Webb**
Public Affairs Office

“Oh no, the printer is down! The copier is going haywire! My workstation shut down on me! The e-mail is going awry! Who do I call?” Has this been a scenario in your office or division? Well, the Army Corps of Engineers Information Technology (ACE-IT) organization is the answer to those problems.

USACE’s Most Efficient Organization (MEO), also known as ACE-IT, was selected as the new Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) operation after a public-private competition last year. The MEO was selected based on the lowest price that was technically available. The MEO is the partnership entered into between the government and the Lockheed Martin Defense Contracting organization.

The implementation of ACE-IT is the result of a presidential mandate to cut information technology costs to the government. To streamline the costs, ACE-IT partnered with Lockheed Martin to provide IM/IT services and contract support. Overall, ACE-IT could save the government more than \$300 million over the next few years.

Since ACE-IT is the Corps’ own premier information technology support team, it has the responsibility of providing a significant number of critical IT related services to blackberries, computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, desk phones and e-mail.



Joanie Collins, ACE-IT information assurance security officer, reviews a workplan estimate for the District’s secure network accreditation.

“We handle everything that is information technology,” said James Abbott, customer relations manager for ACE-IT. “If power runs through it, we either service it or provide it.”

However, this is a job easier said than done due to the down sizing that ACE-IT’s implementation has caused throughout the Corps, and particularly, at the District. Before the transition, the IT support team had 17 employees but now has six — four personal computer technicians and two system administrators. This decrease in manpower has sometimes proven to be a challenge to service Corps employees with their IT needs.

“We are doing our best to provide quality service with what we have,” said Joanie Collins, ACE-IT information assurance security officer. “We want to make the transition as smooth as possible.”

As the information assurance security officer, Collins secures the networks, makes sure the networks, workstations and servers are compliant to Army regulations and makes sure employees receive information assurance training.

The ACE-IT team conducted the wireless refresh, which took place last month. During this process, all blackberries and cell phones were replaced with newer models.

“As the team leader for the blackberry refresh, we developed procedures to purge the device of all remaining data before they were disposed. Using this method ensures information can’t be picked up by someone else,” she said.

This also applies to the personal computer refresh set to begin later this year. This is the replacement of every computer workstation in Baltimore District. ACE-IT will have a standard configuration placed on the workstations which will allow personal computer technicians to troubleshoot any issue without leaving their desks using remote takeover. Technicians will also have a room set up at field offices to configure the devices.

The refresh of each computer is estimated to take approximately three hours per workstation. It is encouraged that employees remove or minimize data that is stored on their workstation to help make the process run as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Although there have been a few challenges with the new organization, Collins and Abbott remain hopeful and very optimistic about the future of ACE-IT.

“As far as ACE-IT goes, I see a number of changes happening. I think it will only change for the better,” Collins said.

Making significant progress...



(Photo courtesy of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)

Significant progress is being made on the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's New Campus East, a 2.4 million square foot project at Fort Belvoir's Engineer Proving Ground. The project is using an innovative acquisition strategy called "Integrated Design Bid Build," and the design and construction are being fast-tracked. Currently, the design is about 70 percent complete and construction is about eight percent complete.

Baltimore District's "Check It" Program

August's Theme is: Engineering

Bill Kriner, Chief of the Field Exploration Unit, Engineering Division, checks recorded data on the soil samples to ensure their accuracy.



Disability Employment Awareness Conference

The Federal Executive Board will host this year's conference, which will feature practitioners with expertise in employment law, veterans issues, emergency preparedness and disability issues.

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 29

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
(Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.)

Location: Club Meade
Building 6600 Mapes Road
Fort Meade, Md.

Representatives from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Job Accommodation Network and the Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program will speak at the conference. For more information or to register, go to www.baltimorefeb.us.