



CONSTELLATION

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Defense Medical Logistics Center nears completion

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

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is putting the “finishing touches” on the Defense Medical Logistics Center at Fort Detrick.

The \$30 million, 130,000-square-foot-building — which has been under design and construction for nearly three years — is scheduled to open in December.

“Only the carpeting and furnishing is left,” said Jeff McMaster, project engineer for the Defense Medical Logistics Center.

McMaster is a member of the Fort Detrick Integrated Program Office, which was responsible for the overall management of the project.

The Defense Medical Logistics Center, which will serve as an administrative facility for supplying medical materials to the military, will include various amenities upon its completion.

“Some of the features include classrooms, specialized storage areas, office space, conference rooms and security systems,” said Kevin Leedy, the construction representative, who was responsible for on-site quality assurance of the project.

The three-story building provides office space for 844

workers, and includes the creation of approximately 675 parking spaces near the building.

Craig Pollack, a representative of Mascaro Construction Company, the contractor who worked closely with the Corps on this project, said he enjoyed working with the Corps to complete the Defense Medical Logistics Center. He said they were receptive of new ideas.

“In the course of the design, we suggested using tilt-wall construction and micropile foundations and the Corps was more

than willing to consider these changes and give them a fair evaluation,” said Pollack.

Tilt-wall or tilt-up construction is a fairly new practice for the Corps, said Jeff Snyder, project manager for the Defense Medical Logistics Center.

“It allows walls to be pre-fabricated on site, and then literally

tilted up piece by piece to form the building’s exterior,” he said. Snyder credits the contractors, Mascaro Construction Company and Baker Engineering Inc., with doing a superb job on this design-build project.

During a design-build project, the Corps gives the minimal requirements of what the building should entail, and allows the contractor to design and construct the building.

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The Defense Medical Logistics Center at Fort Detrick, Md., is scheduled to be completed next month. The building will serve as an administrative facility for supplying medical materials to the military.

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U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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Commander's Comment

Volunteers — America's Backbone!

By Col. Peter W. Mueller
Commander and District Engineer

Today, if you look around your community, read the local paper or listen to co-workers, one thing that will stick out is the significant contributions by volunteers. In our local communities, large numbers of people are making a difference in the lives of many by committing time or expertise to coach in a little league, serve on the PTA or lead scouting organizations. Others participate in community clean-ups, work at homeless shelters, act as big brothers or big sisters, dedicate time to church organizations or involve themselves in the neighborhood watch. Our local communities would be hollow without this volunteerism.

Another level of volunteerism includes those who commit to a profession within the public sector serving in federal, state or local government positions. Some place themselves in harms way to protect our communities or our way of life like firemen, policemen or members of our military services — both Soldiers and Civilians. Many of us have chosen the public sector, never expecting to gain great wealth, but to serve others. Our communities and our Nation would never have reached the current level of prosperity without volunteers.

Throughout the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Baltimore District, there have been frequent calls for volunteers to take on unique missions. The Baltimore District has an impressive history of supporting contingency missions throughout the world including Iraq (32 deployments), Afghanistan (89 deployments), Kosovo (four deployments), as well as responses to natural disasters in the United States (19 in the last two months). Last month we activated our new FEST Team, the 71st Engineer Detachment, consisting of 11 volunteers from Baltimore and Norfolk. Our volunteers have grown individually, while serving in challenging and

rewarding positions away from home.

Today we strive to continue this tradition. The size of USACE's construction program in the Gulf Region Division (GRD) and the Afghanistan Engineer District is growing and the need for employees with solid USACE experience has also grown. Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp has directed a new strategy to support this continuing mission. Each of the overseas districts has been assigned a normal association with two stateside divisions. North Atlantic Division and South Atlantic Division have been asked to support the Gulf Region Central District (GRC). We are one of the 11 Districts that will strive to support the personnel needs of the GRC. The current expectation is that these opportunities will continue into the foreseeable future. We will focus on six-month deployments, with many incentives identified for those who volunteer.

We have held a number of sessions to build awareness about the need, missions, opportunities and incentives for service in GRC. Our commitment is that if you want to serve and meet the medical requirements, we will find an appropriate position for you. We have also identified a project delivery team (PDT) of experienced staff, who have recently deployed and are willing to share their experiences. Ron Maj, deputy of the Engineering Division, is heading this PDT. If you are interested, discuss this opportunity with your supervisor, but also feel free to seek out members of our PDT.

Each of us has different considerations when faced with an opportunity to volunteer in our community, at work or in service to our Corps mission in Iraq. It is appropriate to ask, "If not me, then who? If not now, then when?" I am confident our Team will rise to meet this mission as well. Thank you for your dedicated contributions to the Army and the Corps, thank you for taking a moment to read this message and thank you for considering this unique opportunity to serve our Nation.

Army Strong, Building Strong, ESSAYONS!

Defense Medical Logistics Center (continued from the cover)

“The contractor had greater flexibility because they were part of the process from the start,” said Snyder. “This project was an example of the design-build process at its finest.”

Pollack said the project team was always careful to remember safety considerations during the completion of this project.

“The Corps has been excellent to work with on this project,”



said Pollack. “In the course of construction, they demonstrated their focus on delivering the building to the using agencies, keeping safety and quality as the key objectives of the construction process.”

Like Pollack, Tracy McCleaf, office engineer, said the project team — consisting of the Corps, the multiple Defense Department customers, the architect engineering firm and the contractor — performed well.

“The most enjoyable part of working on this project was the teamwork,” said McCleaf, who recently transferred to Fort Detrick from the Regulatory Branch. “Everyone worked in harmony to get the project done.”

Although the Defense Medical Logistics Center will be completed next month, Baltimore District still has an enormous workload at Fort Detrick. The Corps is currently constructing a \$683 million medical research laboratory for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. The District is also working on several smaller projects including the construction of a U.S. Army Reserve Center, a steam sterilization plant, two satellite stations and repair of a waste water treatment plant.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Defense Medical Logistics Center is scheduled for Dec. 9 at Fort Detrick.

Jeff McMaster (left), project engineer and Kevin Leedy, construction representative, observe equipment in the boiler room of the Defense Medical Logistics Center at Fort Detrick, Md.

Quick Poll: Why do you think supplying medical materials to our armed forces is important?



Helen Bunche
Real Estate Division

“It’s our obligation to provide the armed forces with materials because they’re providing a service to our country.”



Thomas Rossbach
Engineering Division

“They are placing themselves at risk to protect our freedom and are subject to similar health risks as we are. So it is our duty to provide the best medical care for them.”



Denise Clark
Contracting Division

“Medical supplies are essential to their survival.”

Baltimore District continues to provide manning support to the Gulf Region Central District

By Katisha Draughn
Public Affairs Office

Baltimore District is continuing to provide support to the Gulf Region Central District (GRC) in response to the growing and important USACE mission in Iraq. The District is currently recruiting employees who are interested in being a part of this mission.

Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander, held a brown bag luncheon Oct. 16 to discuss this vital mission and to give interested employees the opportunity to gain additional information and ask questions.

Mueller discussed his intent and vision on supporting GRC, the need for employees to deploy to Iraq, the positions that are available in Iraq and the many benefits and opportunities. Then he opened up the floor for questions to more than 20 employees who were in attendance.

Employees asked questions about the duration of time volunteers have to be in Iraq, the types of training that is required and how volunteers can do a possible extension.

Mueller, along with Lt. Col. John Osborn, deputy district engineer; Maj. Patrick Dagon, deputy district engineer for support operations;



(Photo by Dwayne Lester, ACE-IT)

District employees listen as Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander (far left), briefs about the District's support to the Gulf Region Central District at the Commander's brown bag luncheon Oct. 16.

and previously deployed employees, answered these various questions.

Many District employees have deployed to Iraq in support of this mission. Employees that are interested in deploying or have additional questions can contact these employees, their immediate supervisor or Ron Maj at 962-4661.

Receiving high honors...



(Photo courtesy of the Association of General Contractors of D.C.)

(From left to right) Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander; Nigel Parkinson, president of the Association of General Contractors of D.C. (AGC); and Jim Jones, chief of the Programs and Project Management Division and civilian deputy district engineer with Baltimore District, accept congratulations during the 8th Annual Washington Contractor Awards held at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., Oct. 7. More than 400 people attended the event, where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was honored as Owner of the Year for 2008. The Baltimore District was recognized for the many efforts it made in developing working relationships with AGC and its contractors.

Serving the District's customers: RSFO

Story and photo
 by **Jennifer Walsh**
 Public Affairs Office

When Randy Winemiller was playing little league baseball, he was focused on hitting home runs and making double-plays. At the time, he had no idea his coach would be the one to introduce him to the Corps of Engineers.

"My former little league coach set me up with a summer job with the Corps when I was in college," said Winemiller, chief of the Real Property Services Field Office (RSFO).

After graduating in 1980 from Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pa., with a degree in business administration, Winemiller applied and was selected as a Resource Management (RM) intern in Baltimore District. He held various positions within RM before joining Philadelphia District in 1988 as the chief of RM. Winemiller returned to Baltimore District in 1989 as the deputy chief of RM and in 2000, he became the chief of RSFO.

"[Taking the RSFO job] was an opportunity to do something different, but still use the skill set I learned in RM," said Winemiller. "I already had knowledge of the District's business and I knew the people and organizations within the City Crescent Building."

As the chief, Winemiller is responsible for supporting many Department of Defense agencies across the United States by providing specialty leasing and design and construction expertise.

"We perform many of the same functions as Baltimore District's Programs and Project Management Division (PPMD) and the Engineering Division (EN) do, except we do it in a more narrowly focused environment," said Winemiller.

The RSFO is divided into three separate teams — the programs management team, the realty services-facilities management team and the engineering, project management and technical services team.



Randy Winemiller, chief of RSFO, reviews sensitive documents.

The programs management team is responsible for managing the field office's annual budget of \$300 million. Financial analysts, program managers and contracting professionals all work on this team.

The realty services-facilities management team handles lease acquisitions and negotiations. Once a lease is acquired, the team also acts as the building manager and works with the building owner to oversee the operation and maintenance of the property. Currently, the team is managing more than four million square feet of property and 175 leases.

The engineering, project management and technical services team manages the design and construction of RSFO projects. Functioning as scaled-down versions of PPMD and EN, the team consists of project managers, architects, engineers and technical support personnel. Currently, the team is managing in excess of \$200 million in ongoing projects this fiscal year.

Although the RSFO handles most of its project work in-house, team members rely on the District for additional support.

"We have self-contained functions, but we reach back to divisions such as Engineering, Construction, Office of Counsel and Resource Management quite a bit," said Winemiller.

Currently, there are 73 employees working in the RSFO, but Winemiller said he is constantly recruiting new employees because their workload is changing and expanding. For example, in 2000, there were 17 employees and a budget of \$40 million. By 2005, there were more than twice as many employees and a budget in excess of \$300 million.

According to Winemiller, the team members are a close-knit group and the office often has cook-outs, birthday celebrations and potluck lunches.

"The employees are all really good at what they do and they are very hard workers and great patriots," he said.

Did you know...

- Winemiller is currently restoring a 1969 Chevrolet Camaro.
- He is a huge sports fan and roots for the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens.
 - He grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania.
- He has a wife, Michelle, and 13-year-old daughter, Mia.
- He and his wife hope to build their retirement home on land they own in North Carolina.

Emergency Management chief receives Hispanic Luminary award, reflects on Spanish background

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

Maria de la Torre has always been a big supporter of deployments and assisting with emergency operations. Little did she know that her involvement with this cause would ensure her a very prestigious award.

de la Torre, chief of the Emergency Management Branch (EM) with the Construction Division, received the Luminary award at the 20th Annual Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference (HENAAC) in Houston, Texas, Oct. 8-12.

HENAAC was established in 1989 to identify, honor and document the contributions of outstanding Hispanic American science, engineering, technology and math professionals.

Randy Sitton, acting chief of the Military Design Branch in the Construction Division, nominated de la Torre for the Professional Achievement award, with support from Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander, as well as District senior leaders.

“Maria is always proactive and positive. She is a superb leader with incredible technical and people skills. I can always count on her to get the job done to the standard,” said Mueller.

de la Torre fell shy of receiving the Professional Achievement award, but was the recipient of the Luminary award, which recognizes professionals for their contributions to the Hispanic technical community as leaders and role models. de la Torre was an honoree, along with 28 Hispanic engineers and scientists from corporate, government and military sectors.

“I was honored to receive the award. It was nice that Randy thought enough about me and my capabilities to take the time to write up the nomination letter,” said de la Torre. “For me [the award] was a culmination of my parents’ hard work and for being good role models in the Hispanic community.”

de la Torre was born in Quito, Ecuador, and immigrated to the United States with her family when she was 3 1/2 years old. She watched as both her parents worked two jobs to support their family and be successful in America.

“I always saw them work very hard and there was no job that was beneath them. We didn’t have a lot of money, but we still managed to have family dinners and good holidays together,” said de la Torre. “For me, it was always about appreciating what you have.”



Maria de la Torre, chief of Emergency Management, conducts a meeting with her staff members (from left to right) Kelly Marshall, Rodgers Hagert and Brenda Parsons. de la Torre received the Luminary award at the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference.

de la Torre has been in America for 40 years now, and said she is grateful for the opportunities she has been given.

“Coming from a different country and seeing the opportunities that are here and to experience those is wonderful,” she said. “I have always seen hard work and I know one thing — you have to enjoy what you do.”

de la Torre said she loves her job as the chief of EM, which she has held since 2004.

“We plan for and manage emergency events, help with flood damage reduction projects, conduct emergency response, conduct debris management training for state and local governments, among other things,” she said. “I have three staff members and I certainly don’t do it all by myself.”

Kelly Marshall, an emergency management specialist in EM, has been working with de la Torre since 2000, and was immediately impressed with her work ethic.

“She’s not afraid of doing hard work and she’s not afraid of getting down and dirty to get the job done,” said Marshall.

de la Torre has demonstrated that by assisting with emergency operations by deploying to various locations to conduct damage assessment and debris missions in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including a five-month deployment to Kosovo.

Planning for local and national emergencies is something de la Torre enjoys, but she also enjoys spending time with her mother, her two sisters, her aunts and nieces, as well as training for marathon running events and participating in the Army Ten-Miler.

Baltimore District construction company reaches out to small businesses

By David Ruderman
Public Affairs Office

Military construction and Base Realignment and Closure driven contracts will bring billions of dollars of work to the Washington-Baltimore area in the next few years, and a myriad of small businesses are gearing up to make the most of that opportunity.

About 400 representatives of a range of small businesses attended an open house in September in Baltimore hosted by Hensel-Phelps Construction Co., the Baltimore District's prime contractor on the Defense Information Systems Agency headquarters project at Fort Meade, Md.

Federal regulations mandate that set percentages of construction project work be set aside for small, minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned and disabled veteran-owned businesses, and the Baltimore District writes compliance with reaching those goals into its contracts, said Carlen Capenos, Baltimore District's deputy for small business.

"We have guidelines and we are monitoring them," she said. "It is important for us that they succeed." That success is important because major contractors depend on a network of subcontractors to do substantial amounts of work in delivering projects.

"Their success is our success," said Capenos.

Rep. John P. Sarbanes (D-Md.), Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown and Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.), were among local leaders speaking in support of the event. Donna Leketa of Contracting Division represented the Baltimore District.

Hensel-Phelps executives discussed their projected requirements and schedules, as entrepreneurs took notes and calculated how best to promote their firms. Mechanical and electrical contracting firms will be in high demand, said several industry leaders.

After the main presentations, attendees mingled to get more information and to network. District government affairs and public affairs representatives answered questions, handing out fact sheets and collecting business cards.

Among issues that small businesses must address, establishing bonding and past performance criteria are probably the most difficult hurdles, said industry and District contracting officials.

"The bonding requirements for that are tough. In

many instances, the contractor has to show he has a bond line of \$10 million, and they don't," said Karen Barbour, president of the Barbour Group, LLC, which specializes in construction bonds and commercial insurance.

It is especially difficult for start ups, she said. "Overhead is variable and you just can't forecast profitability." Partnering with larger, more established businesses is one strategy firms can follow to leap the initial hurdles and get into the game, she said.

"I found that the presentations were very good, that they are interested in teamwork," said Janis Rettaliata, a freelance construction photographer in business since 1975. "Nobody wants to be an island; nobody wants to be disconnected," she said.

Thomas Lewis Jr., principal of a Baltimore hauling and towing business, said that these are great opportunities to come to broaden your horizon and to know what is actually going on.

"If you have a chance to be on the Hensel-Phelps team, join," said Leketa. "The Corps stands ready to assist you. We want you to be a part of this."

While the Corps and its contractors put forth time and effort to cultivate small business partners, success comes down to small firms being diligent and persistent in getting their feet in the door, and growing into a larger role.

"It's a matter of fighting the fight," said Barbour.



(Photo courtesy of Hensel-Phelps Construction Co.)

Small business principals and representatives mingle and network at a small business open house in Baltimore in September.

An expedition makes history: Lewis and Clark

By Cassandra Anderson

Resource Management Office

Leaders of the past and present have made tremendous strides to improve our society's way of life. Some of our past leaders have not always been recognized; their stories may have been left untold, or their leadership attributes have been omitted. The story of two Soldiers — Meriwether Lewis and William Clark — demonstrates positive leadership attributes and shows how two American heroes set off on a journey that would become a part of history.

In 1803, Lewis and Clark were commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson and sent forward to explore the water passage of the Pacific Ocean for the purpose of commerce and trade. The president was very passionate about not only identifying a passage, but seeking commercial advantages and scientific knowledge while on this voyage. He called the voyage, "Corps of Volunteers of North Western Discovery" (Corps of Discovery).

The president believed that in order for this mission to be successful, a military team should be used because of their great teamwork, discipline and excellent detail attributes. From this, the Lewis and Clark expedition was formed for one of the greatest adventures. Their mission was filled



(Courtesy photo)

William Clark was a governor, a Soldier and an explorer who helped lead the Lewis and Clark expedition.

with dangers and acts of bravery, which had a significant influence on the United States of America. Through the journeys of these men, there were numerous encounters that tested their personal courage, loyalty, and outlined all of the Army Values that we speak about today.

Lewis and Clark gathered a small army and

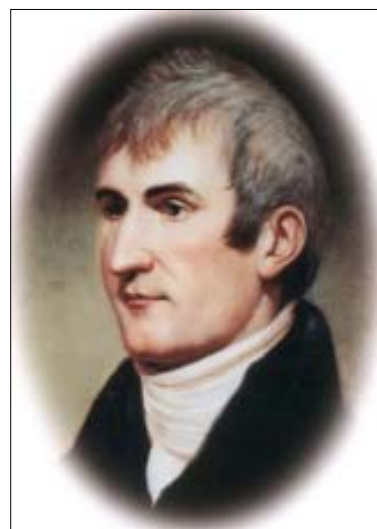
explained the mission and goals of President Jefferson. Within this two-year expedition that traveled more than 8,000 miles, Lewis and Clark — with their troop of men — made maps, charted terrains and participated in trade with Native Americans.

Lewis and Clark's planning, courage and communication skills allowed them to become well known amongst the native Indians and participate in a vast number of trade activities.

In many ways, Lewis and Clark showed how all of their Army Values played a role in this successful voyage. Their loyalty and duty to the president was shown by taking on a mission that initially was not in their area of expertise. Respect for authority was shown by

setting out on a mission to change the American way of life under the direction and vision of Jefferson. Our country benefited from the selfless service they showed in taking on an army's mission with no regard for oneself and the road that had to be taken. Lewis and Clark's honor went without saying when they embarked on a mission that would change society as a whole. The unspoken integrity and interpersonal skills of these excellent leaders allowed them to make sound, honest decisions. Most importantly, Lewis and Clark exhibited personal courage when they sought answers to the mission in the face of danger, no matter how long the voyage.

Missions such as these have been successful in the past and with our instilled Army Values, all future missions will continue to be successful. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to build a large and diverse workforce with positive role models. Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage are leadership skills that help to cultivate individuals into excellent leaders within a strong organization.



(Courtesy photo)

Meriwether Lewis was a Soldier, an explorer and was part of the Lewis and Clark duo, who led an expedition to the Pacific Ocean.

A Belief System for Safety Excellence, An Essential Component of the Voluntary Protection Program

By John Houvener

Safety and Occupational Health Office

As each of you should know by now, the Baltimore District has implemented the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) as our Safety Management System. An essential component to VPP is Safety Excellence at all levels.

What is **Safety Excellence**? Safety Excellence is not the opposite of mediocrity. Safety Excellence is different. Safety excellence is not generated by more of the same, only faster, quicker, cheaper and greener. Safety Excellence is achieved by re-focusing on the drivers of high performance culture and leadership. Relative to safety, this would suggest that traditional safety elements and programs, although valid and necessary, are alone, not sufficient to achieve Safety Excellence in an organization that has a set goal to become a “world class” organization.

These elements need to be empowered by the culture of our District. There are foundational truths to Safety Excellence that apply to all organizations. These foundational truths comprise those critical beliefs which, when embraced by every Baltimore District team member, can enable us to **Re-define Operational Safety Excellence**, achieve safety success and become an OSHA VPP Star Site.

The **Covenants of Excellence** are:

- **COVENANT #1** – **Safety** is not about preventing accidents; **Safety** is all about improving the process.
- **COVENANT #2** – Employee behaviors **do not cause** accidents; accidents are caused by **at-risk** employee behavior.
- **COVENANT #3** – Accidents are **not** the problem; the problem(s) are the problem.
- **COVENANT #4** – The **business process** determines all business outcomes, of which safety is but one.
- **COVENANT #5** – Employees work **in the system**, managers work **on the system**, the system produces accidents and employees sustain injuries.
- **COVENANT #6** – To increase the bottom line,

managers must effectively manage the middle lines, of which, the cost of **L.O. S. S.** (Lack Of Safety Strategy) is significant.

- **COVENANT #7** – Safety performance is a clear and reflective measure of our District’s **leadership** (values), **management** (competencies) and **operational processes** (systems).

- **COVENANT #8** – A core truth is deeply embedded within the value systems of organizations that repeatedly generate **poor** safety performance, and it is: *people don’t count!* We can’t have that. EVERY person in the Baltimore District counts.

- **COVENANT #9** – Achieving Safety Excellence is requisite upon measuring and managing the **right things**. The fiscal 2009 Safety Management Action Plan will have some action items that will help us do just that.

- **COVENANT #10** – Safety must **never** be the responsibility of a staff function or a committee; safety must always be the obligation of **managers, supervisors and every other person on site**.

- **COVENANT #11** – Disciplinary actions, in any form and by any name, **do not** increase the level of safe behavior in a workplace.

- **COVENANT #12** – Excellence is attainable...**now!** All obstacles are self imposed L.A.M.E. (Lazy, Anti-quoted, Mediocre and Externally Focused) excuses.

World Class safety performance cannot be attained by simply having a visible safety program, we must put our hearts into it. Safety is nothing more than a byproduct of doing things right all the time.



In Memoriam



James R. Svehla, a former chief of the Budget Branch in the Resource Management Office (RMO), died Sept. 28. He was 87 years old.

Svehla began working for the Baltimore District in 1940 and retired in 1977, with more than 30 years of service. He earned several awards as a District employee, to include the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees.

He is survived by his three sister-in-laws, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Let's get involved...



(Photo by Katisha Draughn, Public Affairs)

William Mendoza, vice president for the Baltimore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, speaks to District employees during the Hispanic Heritage Month Observance Oct. 6. About 70 employees attended the observance, centered on the theme, "Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Communities, Our Nation." Mendoza spoke about contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to Maryland and the District of Columbia area. He also emphasized the importance of communities working together and encouraged employees to become members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Baltimore District's "Check It" Program November's Theme is: Internal Review

Cynthia Varnado, the new chief of Internal Review at Baltimore District, reviews audit samples received from the auditing firm, Price Waterhouse Coopers.



Open Benefits Season is almost here!

*The 2008 Federal Benefits Open Season for Health (FEHBP), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAFEDS) and Dental and Vision (FEDVIP) will be conducted from **Nov. 10 to Dec. 8.** Benefits will go into effect on **Jan. 4, 2009.***

There will be health fairs on **Wednesday, Nov. 19**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Fallon Federal Building, first floor lobby, and **Thursday, Nov. 20**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the City Crescent Building EEOC Conference Room, fourth floor.

Long hours at the District bring successful end-of-year closeout

Story and photos
by **Clem Gaines**
Public Affairs Office

Recognition and appreciation for long hours and hard work flowed to Baltimore District employees in early October as the District successfully completed its biggest fiscal year ever.

“Kudos to all of the leadership and financial points of contact within each of the functional divisions for working collaboratively with Resource Management (RM) to develop realistic budgets and, more importantly, to take active action throughout the year to manage those budgets,” said Greg Johnson, chief of the Resource Management Office.

On Oct. 3, Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander, brought the effort into perspective by noting that, “Total fiscal 2008 expenditures for the District were \$1.384 billion and obligations [were] in excess of \$2.1 billion. Our contracting actions in the last 45 days were 1,348 (5,588 for the year) and we obligated \$369,442,428.” He also emphasized that the District added nearly 100 teammates to the workforce.

Supervisors and specialists in RM, Contracting, Office of Counsel and others worked during the final weekend in September — and earlier weekends — to achieve this level of mission-oriented obligations.

(Right) **Nicole Stallings**, a budget analyst in the Resource Management Office, works on returning funding for the fiscal year close out.



(Left) **Steven Everette**, a contracting specialist in Contracting Division, works to process blanket purchase agreements and contractor’s information forms.

(Right) **Linda Argentieri**, a budget analyst in the Programs and Project Management Division, works to accept and establish funds for multiple Walter Reed Army Medical Center contract awards.



News You Can Use

Baltimore District's Annual Town Hall Meeting

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 2

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: The Hippodrome, M & T Pavilion,
12 North Eutaw Street

All employees are encouraged to attend

Baltimore District's Annual Holiday Party

Date: Friday, Dec. 12

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Hotel, 300 Light Street

Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaign Kicks Off!

This Year's Theme: Light the Way

The CFC will run until Dec. 15. It will host a Chili Cook-Off on Nov. 5 and a Silent Auction on Nov. 20. Additional details to follow.

For more information contact Cori Brown at (410) 962- 6019

Computer Refresh begins Nov. 3

PC's and laptops will be replaced with new devices beginning Nov. 3. The refresh will start in the City Crescent Building. Field offices will follow after the first of the calendar year. Each division has a representative on the IM/IT Transition Team who is coordinating their schedule.

Some things that you can do to make your refresh go smoothly:

Complete the Dell survey; clean work area, including access to the power outlet; decrypt all encrypted files to be transferred to the new device; move work data on your hard drive to the “My Documents” folder; and be present and available during the refresh.

The refresh process will involve a technician who will interconnect legacy and refresh computers to copy files and folders. The technician will also connect the refreshed computer to all applicable servers and peripherals and restore the desktop settings.