



## Jefferson Hall opens its doors

By Kenneth Wells, Public Affairs

Going to the library used to be one of the most demanding chores known to man. From finding what you wanted, to tracking it down on a shelf, to actually checking it out and remembering to bring it back on time, a trip to the library could be well...exhausting.

Fortunately for the cadets at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, going to the library is about to get a whole lot easier. On September 24, 2008, the academy opened the doors to a sparkling new state-of-the-art learning center, courtesy of the Army Corps' New York District.

Jefferson Hall holds the distinction of being the first academic building to be erected in 36 years. The academy's current library was originally built in 1964 and has undergone a number of renovations over the years in an effort to keep up with the plethora of technological changes.



**Lt. Gen. Buster Hagenbeck, academy superintendent, (third from left) cuts the ribbon to open Jefferson Hall Library and Learning Center during an official dedication Sept. 24. Guest speakers for the event were retired Gen. Richard Cody, former Army vice chief of staff (second from left), and John Charles Thomas, a member of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation board of trustees (fourth from right). Jefferson Hall is the first new academic building on West Point in 36 years.**

The new facility will integrate library and learning center functions such as collections, user services, administration, collection development, technical services, staff support, public services and support services.

There will be 10 meeting rooms to accommodate students and provisions for wireless access that will allow cadets to log onto the library's network using a personal laptop.

Even though Jefferson Hall will replace the old library, the old building will still have quite a bit of life. An extensive renovation will see the first floor and basement be converted to an archive and special collections area.

The rest of the building will be incorporated into Bartlet Hall next door, which is home to West Point's science and physics department.

"Jefferson Hall is the crown jewel of this historic and prestigious campus," said James Demetriou, project manager for New York District. "The Architect-Engineers design was outstanding and they should be proud of the achievement."

Jefferson Hall's construction cost is \$61 million. The A-E was STV, Inc. The contractor for the project is J. Kokolakis Construction.



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U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New York District

## In This Month's Issue



The Intrepid began its five mile journey up the Hudson River at 11 A.M., stopping at Ground Zero to drop the American Flag over the side of the carrier in a gesture of remembrance. It arrived at Pier 86 at 2:30 P.M.

On October 2, 2008, the U.S.S. Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum returned home to Pier 86 on Manhattan's west side. The aircraft carrier spent the past 22-months undergoing extensive renovations in Staten Island. A space measuring about 110 feet wide and 30 feet deep was cleared alongside the pier. For good measure, the ship's four 16-ton, bronze, 22-foot-diameter propellers were permanently removed so they would no longer snag on the Hudson River bottom. During World War II, the Intrepid survived at least four Japanese kamikaze attacks and lost 270 sailors. Decommissioned in 1974, the Intrepid was saved from the scrap yard by New York developer and philanthropist Zachary Fisher, who led the campaign to preserve the ship as a museum. The Intrepid expects to reopen on Nov. 8, with new exhibits and facilities.

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## Colonel's Corner

District Team,

We're heading into the fall season once again and while the weather might be changing, the good work that New York District is doing remains constant. A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Jefferson Hall Learning Center up at West Point.

This state-of-the-art building holds the distinction of being the first academic building erected at the academy in 36 years and I am very proud of the fact that New York District played such a pivotal role in its construction. I am also glad to know that Jefferson Hall will help benefit generations of soldiers to come in their learning efforts.

The District also witnessed the return of the Intrepid after two years in dry dock for renovations and repairs. Given the monumental effort put forth by District personnel to help get the Intrepid moved to its berth up at Pier 86, I look forward to celebrating its re-opening with you next month on Veteran's Day.

A number of our District personnel have also deployed to Texas to help with the hurricane relief efforts. This mission takes on a special type of significance because it's voluntary and requires the men and women who elect to go to put aside their own lives in an effort to help hurricane victims. It's a mission that requires long hours and a great deal of sacrifice and I'm pleased to see that we have so many District personnel ready, willing and able to step up and tackle this challenge head on.

North Atlantic Division is also going to be entering into a partnership with South Atlantic Division to take part in a support mission for the Gulf Region Central District in Iraq. The idea is to ensure that they have enough personnel to accomplish their construction support missions in FY09 and beyond. NAN's target number for GRC support is 9 individuals.

The requirements include 1 Admin. Assistant, 1 Program Manager, 1 Accountant, 1 Area/Resident Engineer, 2 Project Engineers, 1 Construction Representative, 1 Program/Project Manager and 1 GIS Technician/Specialist. If you fall into any of the above categories and are interested in volunteering for a tour overseas, please let us know.

There is still a great deal of work to be done over there and I want to make sure that New York District continues to provide top-notch people to help support the GRC's mission as well as contribute to USACE's primary mission of supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Lastly, we will be holding our next Town Hall meeting on Oct. 17 and I look forward to seeing all of you there. I am very proud of all of you and the great work you do. Thank you for your service to our country.

***Essayons!***



**Col. Aniello L. Tortora  
Commander**

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## Take a breath

By Sandra Gafney, Office of Counsel

Breathe one, two; compress one, two, three, four, five.....thirty!!!

Breathe one, two; compress one, two, three, four, five..... thirty !!!

Ten District employees took the FDNY cardio-pulmonary resuscitation - CPR – training class at 26 Federal Plaza. This no-cost, one-hour class was taught by the New York City Fire Department’s Mobile CPR Unit EMT instructors Pablo Vazquez, Fabiola Guevedo, and Jessica Smith.

This was not the formal class which leads to CPR certification for medical personnel, but a short, take action in an emergency instruction for everyone. Each participant was given a training kit which included a “mini-Anne” inflatable mannequin.

The mannequin is named after the larger CPR or Resusci-Annie which was originally manufactured in the 1960’s. Resusci-Annie is designed to simulate the human respiratory system and external body landmarks necessary to facilitate CPR training.

This hands-on class taught CPR for adults only, but an accompanying training manual contains instructions for infants and children. In exchange for the class instruction, the FDNY asks only that each participant teach CPR to one other person.

The instructors estimated in New York City, it will take about 4-6 minutes after a 911 call for an FDNY ambulance to arrive at the address of a non-breathing person.

The ability to perform CPR on a family member or friend may mean the difference between life and death for a loved one.

When the class was completed, the district participants, though a bit winded, were enthusiastic about what

they had learned and whole- heartedly recommended this or a similar short class to everyone.

Additional classes may be held if there is sufficient interest. District employees, in coordination with their supervisors, should email Paula Higgins at [Paula.M.Higgins@usace.army.mil](mailto:Paula.M.Higgins@usace.army.mil) if they wish to participate.



Members of New York District’s Office of Legal Counsel take part in a CPR class that was recently taught by FDNY personnel. Photos: Sandra Gafney, Office of Counsel



## Getting into the Green

By Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs

New York District's Regulatory Branch has been making changes over the past year and is now keeping pace with the rest of the North Atlantic Division on performance metrics and continues to improve in order to maintain those figures in the long term.

"Initially going back about a year ago, we were struggling to meet some of the performance measures," said Rich Tomer, regulatory branch chief. "Recently, we have been meeting all eight performance metrics... out of the red and into the green."

With a recently intensified emphasis on regulatory metrics coming from Division level and above, New York District leaders knew that something needed to be done. John Tavolaro, deputy chief of the operations division, said the branch had always been meeting its enforcement goals, but was falling short in issuing general permit decisions and individual permit decisions to standard in recent years.

"Those were the two where we were always red, we weren't meeting them," Tavolaro said. "Of course, those are the two that the public gets to see. Those are the ones where you're providing a direct service to the public."

General permit decisions, which are usually the simpler requests, are supposed to be completed within 60 calendar days and the traditionally more complex individual permit applications are supposed to be decided within 120 days.



**Members of the New York District Regulatory Department receive the Division Engineer Coin for their outstanding contribution to improving the branch's productivity. From l.-r. Brig Gen. Semonite, Larry Young, Naomi Handel, Dr. Christopher Mallory, Denise Butts Thomas Creamer, Col. Tortora and Joseph Seebode. Photo Credit: Dan Desmet, Public Affairs.**

In the fourth quarter of the 2007 fiscal year, ending September 30, the regulatory branch didn't meet the goal of deciding 75 percent of the general permit applications submitted within 60 days. It also fell short of the 50 percent goal for individual applications within the 120 day period.

As of May 2008 figures though, the branch was exceeding both goals and in the green, a trend leaders hope to continue. The main reasons cited for the branch's success were an update of the organizational structure, using available technology more efficiently, and an overall re-examination of business processes with a focus on making prompt, quality decisions at every phase of the application review process.

**(Getting into the Green continued on page 10)**



## Downtown Hackers win the championship

By Anthony Schiano, Engineering

For the past three years the New York District Downtown Hackers have been competing in a men's recreational basketball tournament held at Chelsea Piers Sports and Entertainment Complex, located on West 21st near the West Side Highway.

The tournament consists of 10 regular season games, one playoff game and a championship game. There are four seasons, held in the fall, winter, spring and summer. The Hackers have been together for about three years.

This season's summer league team consisted of five Corps employees: Paul Sabalis (NAD), Anthony Schiano (Engineering), Robin Tulsiram (PPMD), Frank Verga (PPMD) and Edward Wrocenski (Planning).

There were also six honorary Corps employees: Lab Gjonbalaj, Nicky Lorifice, Robert Nicotra, Chris Marrugo, Mark O'Brien, & Paul Pesce.

Former Corps players include Andre Chauncey (Engineering), Allan Ford (Engineering), Naron Johnson (HR), Freddie Bilbao (Construction) & Cliff Jones (NAD), who should be returning to the team this season after taking the summer off.



**After three trips to the championship game, the Downtown Hackers finally managed to finish the job and bring home the summer 2008 championship trophy in the Chelsea Piers men's recreational basketball tournament. From l-r. Lab Gjonbalaj, Robert Nicotra, Mark O'Brien, Chris Marrugo, Paul Sabalis, Anthony Schiano, Frank Verga, Robin Tulsiram, Nicky Lorifice.**

The Hackers are a postseason fixture – making it to the championship game on three separate occasions. Unfortunately, they'd come up short each time, but those losses only strengthened their resolve.

This season the team finished in second place with a very respectable 7-3 record, setting up a winner takes all game against Client #9. Client #9 gave the Hackers a run for their money, pulling within four points late in the second half.

The Hackers, however, rose to the challenge using teamwork, determination, and most importantly that "Army Strong" attitude, the Hackers were as strong as the castle they represent, beating Client #9 by 10 points and to claim their first-ever championship.



## FENIB

**Health Plan News:** Premiums for health benefits, including the government share and the enrollee's share, will increase an average of 7.0 percent in 2009. The average enrollee's share of the premium will increase 7.9 percent. Also on the health care agenda is a new health plan which will appear for the 2008 open season. SAMBA Health Benefit Plan, a plan originally restricted to law enforcement employees and the intelligence community will be available to all federal employees and annuitants who are eligible for FEHB.

**Pay Raise:** The Senate approved a bill that would give civilian federal employees a 2009 pay hike of 3.9 percent. The measure is awaiting the signature of President Bush. This 3.9 percent figure is identical to the amount the House and Senate specified for members of the military in the fiscal 2009 Defense authorization bill, which also passed.

**Military Spouses:** President Bush issued an order granting federal agencies the authority to bypass competitive hiring regulations to appoint spouses of military service members to civilian government jobs to a position for which the person is qualified. The qualifications consistent with any regulations the OPM may write, are: the person must be a spouse of the member of the Armed Forces performing active duty under orders that authorize a permanent change of stations move if such spouse relocates to the member's new permanent duty station; the spouse of a totally disabled retired or separated member of the Armed Forces; or the unremarried widow or widower of a member of the Armed Forces killed while performing active duty.

**Volunteer Time:** A bill introduced by Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., would grant civil servants up to six days of leave annually to serve as nonpartisan poll workers. The bill passed out of the House Administration Committee and currently awaits a vote by the full chamber. Federal employees already use administrative leave to serve on jury duty and election leave would be similar.

**PER DIEM RATES:** The General Services Administration has announced new per diem rates for federal employees. The rates, which take effect Oct. 1, are almost 4 percent higher than those for the current fiscal year. The average individual per diem rate for fiscal year 2009 will be \$165.00, up from \$158.00 this year. The rates cover lodging (excluding taxes), meals and incidental expenses.

**NSPS:** The DoD and the Office of Personnel Management has issued final regulations for the National Security Personnel System (NSPS). The rules spell out details for how employees' performance will be measured, how pay pools operate and how employees will be rewarded for their performance. There are approximately 183,000 DoD employees under NSPS. These rules which govern compensation, classification and performance management can be found in the Federal Register

**COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN:** The Office of Personnel Management said that 32 of the more than 300 campaigns this year will use Employee Express, the agency's electronic pledging system. CFC officials say Employee Express and similar programs are an easy, fast way to donate. As online donations become more popular the CFC will be better able to determine a marketing strategy and easily collect information on donation habits.



## Ft. Drum: The Beat Goes On

By Mary Stavina, Public Affairs

Anticipating the arrival of increased troops, construction at Fort Drum is progressing at an accelerated pace. From the interiors of the barracks to the paving of the parking lots, the sound of construction can be heard throughout this expansive complex.

Under the military transformation program, the Corps continues to oversee the construction at Fort Drum, which, when completed, will meet the needs of today's soldier. No longer will returning soldiers be housed in the barracks of yesteryear. The Pine Plains Barracks is one of these new structures, consisting of two three-story air conditioned buildings with 150 rooms each. Soldiers will have semi-private rooms with a shared mini-kitchen and bath.

The common areas will be handicap accessible. Construction for this facility is currently 97% complete. Full completion is scheduled for October 2008 and workers are currently in the midst of final interior cleanup. Once that's done they'll begin bringing in new furniture. The total cost of the contract is \$25 million. The contractor on this project is Lawman Heating and Cooling Inc.

Looking to the health and welfare of the total soldier and their family's quality of life, construction on the Dental Clinic and CDC (Child Development Center) Center) are progressing at a steady pace as well.

In preparation for the large influx of soldiers and their families, construction on the freestanding dental clinic will be completed early next year.

Given the large numbers of soldiers and their families within the area "It's extremely difficult to get dental service around here," said Richard Lavoie, project engineer, Ft. Drum Resident Office. "This dental clinic will make it easier for Soldiers to get the care they need without having to leave the base."

The clinic will provide 24 dental treatment rooms and support spaces. The existing clinic will be turned over to the installation based on the Installation's Master Plan. The Dental Clinic's total cost is \$8 million. The contractor on this facility is SLR Contracting & Service Co., Inc.

The Child Development Center, designed for children between the ages of 6-10 years, is 95% complete. The facility has a state-of-the-art kitchen, air conditioning, large outdoor activity area and access for the disabled. The building has the capacity to accommodate 150 children. The total construction cost for the center is \$6 million. The contractor is VETCO Contracting Services, LLC.

On-site construction work for the CDC that will accommodate younger children (ages 0-5) began in August and completion is anticipated sometime during FY09. Total anticipated cost is \$8 million. The contractor is Blue Star A Joint Venture.

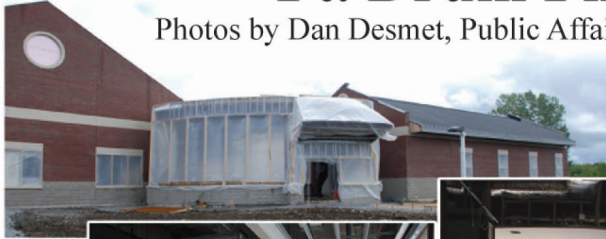
These construction programs are part of the Army's continuing effort to provide state-of-the-art facilities that are designed to improve and maintain quality of life standards for Soldiers and their families.





## Ft. Drum Photo Collage

Photos by Dan Desmet, Public Affairs



**New Dental Clinic**



**EOD Facility**



**Child Development Center**



**Water Tower Raising**



**Pine Plains Barrack Complex**





## Around the District

# U.S. Army 511th Deep Sea Dive Team repairing boat slips at Caven Point Army Terminal

By Dan Desmet, Public Affairs

The U.S. Army's 511th Deep Sea Dive Team, based at Ft. Eustis, VA rebuilt boat slips at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, Caven Point Terminal in Sept. 2008. The divers mission is to provide engineer diving support to major commands, task forces, government agencies and sister services throughout the world. The divers also assisted in the investigation of underwater obstructions at Pier 86 just days before the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum was returned to its berth in Oct. 2008. This work is also part of their mandatory proficiency training and by doing it out in the real world, it allows the unit to provide necessary services to commands with water-based missions. Their capabilities encompass everything from underwater construction/repair and salvage operations to inland waterway mobility and countermobility. These units are also equipped to handle the following operations:



### Ship Salvage

- Underwater obstacle reduction and removal

- Channel and harbor inspections

- Pipeline placement and inspection

- Water bottom sampling

- Lock and dam inspection and repair

- Hydrographic surveys

### (Getting into the Green continued from page 5)

“The year long process has steadily improved regulatory’s production numbers and the division’s leadership believes they are now heading in the right direction. “It’s still ongoing,” Tavolaro said. “We can’t rest on our laurels even though the latest reports show us green. We still need to carry through and finish all the organizational changes that we’re going to go through because that’s the long-term solution.”



## USACE Transactions

### Retirements

Yuri Prizel, EN



Alvin Washington of Logistics Management recently retired from the District after 25 years of service. New York District wishes him well in his next endeavor.

### New Employees

Timothy Leonard, CO  
Jason Parker, CT  
Robert A. Fleming, EN  
Ahmed S. Soliman, OP  
Michael Bush, OP  
Stephan A. Ryba, OP  
Sean M. Wachutka, PP  
Thomas Herrington, RE  
Nancy Morea, RE

### Farewells

Rito P. Sabanal, EN  
Leslie Bowles, OP  
Brandi Sloss, PL  
John C. McNamara, OP  
Betzaida Andujar, OP  
James Moore, PP

## New York District Times takes on a New Look

The New York District Times, the official newsletter of the Corps of Engineers, New York District has a new look. In addition to a new masthead it has a new editor. Ken Wells has taken over the position of editor formerly held by Vincent Elias. "Vincent did an excellent job and I hope to build on the publication." Ken said. Information will continue to remain up-to-date and strive to keep readers abreast of current events. As in the past, the editor welcomes your news, features and photos. You can reach Ken at [kenneth.wells@usace.army.mil](mailto:kenneth.wells@usace.army.mil).





## Tidbits Did you know?

By Mary Stavina



On May 2, 1975, upon the 200th anniversary of the Corps, retired General Sverdrup, who had civil engineering projects including the landmark 17-mile (27 km)-long Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel to his credit, presented the Gold Castles to then-Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General William C. Gribble, Jr., who had also served under General MacArthur in the Pacific. General Gribble then announced a tradition of passing the insignia along to future Chiefs of Engineers, and it has been done so since.



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