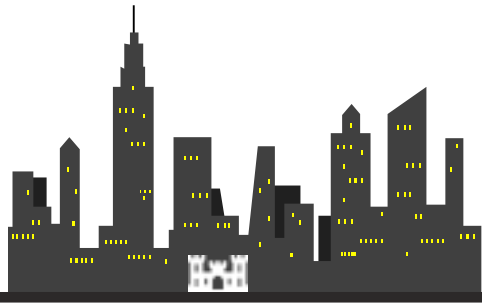


# The New York District Times



Spring 2007 Vol. 32, No.2

Cradle of the Corps

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District

## Spring nor'easter devastates region

A mid-April nor'easter battered communities from New Jersey to Maine, dumping more than 8 inches of rain in some places.

The New York region was pounded with several inches of rain over a four-day period as roaring rivers overflowed their banks in New Jersey. Gale force winds and roaring surf pounded the New York and New Jersey shorelines as record downpours tested the mettle of counties just north of New York City.

What doesn't usually make the news is the Corps' flood control projects that did exactly what they were designed to do, saving millions of dollars in property and public resources because flooding didn't happen where projects were in place.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers programs and projects prevented millions of dollars in damages at locations in New York and New Jersey.

Levees, channel improvements, flood walls, dam modifications and open space preservation all played a part in easing the effect of a significant rain event.

The Passaic River, N.J., basin appeared to receive the brunt of the flooding from the nor'easter.

The Corps has implemented several flood damage reduction projects in the basin, as agreed to by the State of New Jersey and local governments.



Photo: Ed Wrocenski

**The Passaic River, N.J., basin appeared to receive the brunt of the flooding from the nor'easter.**

Projects include work at Molly Ann's Brook, the Pompton Dam at Oakland and the Passaic River Early Warning System.

Although not a comprehensive solution, these measures are currently providing elevated levels of flood protection.

Without these measures, flood-related damages would be much greater than currently reported.

Overall, New York District flood damage reduction projects saved \$91.8 million in five states.

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Inside . . . District deepens the Kill van Kull**

**Page 6**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New York District

### New York District Times

Newsletter of the  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
New York District

#### Spring Issue

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9-11-01

Lest we forget

# Colonel's Corner

New York District marked a milestone April 5 with the official opening of the Pompton dam, a \$21.6 million project that was years in the making.

The floodgates installed in this dam, along with channel modifications and environmental mitigation upstream in the Ramapo River, will significantly reduce flood damage for hundreds of residents in low-lying areas of Pompton Lakes and Oakland, N.J.



**Col. Nello Tortora**  
Commander

This project's success is a great example of the winning formula for New York District. The formula can be summed up in one word: Teamwork.

Certainly the project manager is the leader of this team. Coordinating activities of the various divisions, stakeholders, elected officials, interested parties, contractors, and, of course, the project sponsor is challenging, to say the least. But the PM can't do it all alone – a "team of teams" is required for success.

To deliver a quality project, we rely on a project delivery team, led by the project manager and composed of everyone necessary for successful development and execution of the project. Every member of the PDT brings valuable skills and expertise from many functional areas within the District. Each member of the project delivery team is also a member of a functional area team in the District. For example, the PDT member from Engineering Division is also part of the Engineering Division team. I want us to look at each PDT as a "team of teams" from throughout the District – all working together in project delivery. A team of teams allows us to tear down stovepipes and become interdependent – the entire District working together to provide the highest quality projects and services to our customers and the Nation.

This synergy can be very powerful when we aggressively execute the Project Management Business Process. The PMBP is the fundamental method used to deliver quality projects in New York District and is defined in USACE ER 5-1-11 by three imperatives:

1. One project, one team, one project manager
2. Manage all projects with a Project Management Plan
3. The project delivery team is responsible for project success

Bottom line: We are a team of teams driven by our mission – project delivery on time, within budget, and safely in order to satisfy our customers, partners, and stakeholders, while always prepared to respond to civil emergencies and disasters and support the Global War on Terrorism.

You should all be proud of the Pompton dam project and of your contribution to improving the lives and livelihoods of people who live and work nearby.

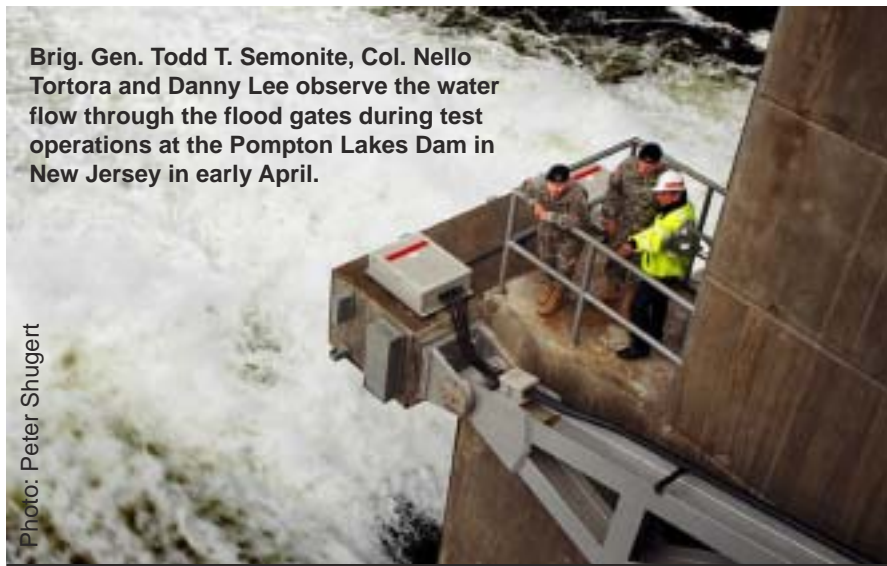
Thanks for the great work you do every day.

*Essayons!*

## Corps tests newly installed dam floodgates

In April, the newly installed flood gates of the Pompton Lakes Dam were tested in Oakland, N.J. prior to turning the project over to the state of New Jersey.

Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division, Col. Nello Tortora, commander, New York District, and Danny Lee, assistant chief of the Construction Division, New York District inspected the final test operations of the new floodgates.



Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, Col. Nello Tortora and Danny Lee observe the water flow through the flood gates during test operations at the Pompton Lakes Dam in New Jersey in early April.

Photo: Peter Shugert

Also in attendance were Anthony Ciorra, chief Civil Projects, PPMD, and John O'Connor, New York District project manager.

The installation of the floodgates marks the culmination of a \$21 million flood damage reduction project, which included restoration of eight acres of wetlands.

The project was turned over to the state of New Jersey for operation and maintenance.

## USACE offers project managers PMP certification program

USACE is asking project managers to consider becoming certified as a Project Management Professional — a globally recognized professional credential only provided by the Project Management Institute. Certification demonstrates an individual has the knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to competently practice project management to meet a broad range of project requirements in today's business world.

A three-level PMP certification program is being offered. All project managers must certify at Level I and are encouraged to certify for Levels II and III, based on experience, grade and pay band. USACE has prescribed that Levels II and III applicants receive training and pass an exam.

Training is provided on-site by the International Institute for Learning, a contractor for the Project Management Institute.

Training will be during a 7-day period over three months from May to July. For project managers who already received this training, a 3-day refresher training course will be provided. To certify at all levels, a certification application package must be prepared by the project manager. Soon, package examples, submission deadlines and necessary documents will be provided.

Until Dec. 31, 2007, USACE is allowing project managers to show education and experience equivalencies to the requirements indicated in their certification application packages. To do this, applicants must include a Transition Period Application Checklist with their package.

For specifics about the program, contact Debra Smith in Human Resources at (917) 790-8202.

The Project Management Institute website is <http://www.pmi.org>

### **DATES**

#### **TRAINING**

**(7 Days on-site)**

**June 4-5 and July 9-11**

#### **REFRESHER TRAINING**

**(3-Day on-site) May 2-4**

#### **EXAM**

**Computer based and may be taken at the project manager's convenience by Oct. 15**

## Spring Nor'easter devastates region (Continued from page 1)

District projects in New Jersey prevented an estimated \$34 million in flooding damages from this nor'easter. In New York, flood damages prevented is estimated at \$54.8 million. Damages prevented by District projects in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont are estimated at \$322,000, \$2.7 million and \$618,700, respectively.

New York District's seasoned emergency management staff, coupled with a cadre of trained emergency response team professionals responded as the massive storm moved slowly over the region. District Emergency Operations personnel working with state emergency management officials assessed flood damages and identified what needed repair.

The storm began as a classic nor'easter whose winds come from the northeast. According to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, the center of a nor'easter can even take on the circular shape more typical of a hurricane and have a small eye.

The storm caused a significant amount of beach erosion along coastal areas, as well as flooding in the low-lying areas. A nor'easter precipitation pattern is similar to other extra-tropical storms. Until the nor'easter passes, thick dark clouds often block out the sun.

It was reported that wind gusts were up to 60 miles per hour in places.

Corps officials communicated early and often with local officials as flood waters rose during the relentless rain. Floodwaters were a major concern in the floodplains in New Jersey.

Images of neighborhoods ravaged by the storm filled newspapers and television news programs as communities in New Jersey and New York State coped with up to 7 inches of rain in one day, followed by a soaking rain shower that flooded many areas in the region.

Paramus, N.J., received 8.1 inches of rain, and Lodi, N.J., got 7.5 inches, according to the weather experts.



Photo: Peter Shugert

**Joseph Rossano and Felix Chevere of New York District point to a water line on a building in Bound Brook, N.J. where water rose from the flooding from the Nor'easter.**

The Saddle River in New Jersey rose to 10.7 feet, nearly 5 feet above flood level, and the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook rose to 5.3 feet, 2 feet above the point at which it floods, according to Bergen County, N.J., officials.

Damage was extensive in many areas, with neighborhoods devastated by flooding.

In the midst of extensive regional flooding damage the Corps closely monitored the severe flood situation within the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut tri-state area.

Corps authorities and mission in responding to natural disasters include providing advice and assistance when requested to local communities.

The Corps' primary role is as part of the national response plan, providing the Federal Emergency Management Agency with technical expertise in infrastructure matters such as water supply, ice, temporary housing and roofing, debris removal, and temporary electrical power.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## Spring Nor'easter devastates region (Continued from page 4)

The Corps role is activated when there is a Presidential declaration of an emergency. In addition to emergency response, the Corps manages federal flood damage reduction projects and beach erosion control projects.

The Corps prepared in advance for the nor'easter on Sunday morning. The Corps activated its emergency operations center. The New York District coordinated with Corps higher headquarters and with FEMA. Corps personnel were positioned and assets were locally deployed in anticipation of a possible emergency response action.

The Corps also coordinated with project sponsors in local communities and federal, state and local officials by deploying its Basin Assessment Teams. These teams are the Corps' "eyes and ears" with local communities to help the Corps assess the current conditions and what it can do to assist. Also dispatched were liaisons to the emergency response offices in New Jersey, New York State and New York City.

As the nor'easter wound down, and as the swollen rivers crested, the Corps worked diligently with all state and local response agencies and determined the extent and impact to both the Corps federal projects and the communities.

Following the storm, there were still areas where the peak flooding had not yet occurred. The Corps worked closely with FEMA for possible disas-



Photo: Peter Shugert

**At a FEMA press conference, Col. Nello Tortora, District commander, and Stu Piken, deputy District Engineer for PM, speak with New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez about the flooding in New Jersey.**

ter response missions. The Corps provided nearly 25,000 sandbags to New York State and New York City at their request.

Three people lost their lives while being trapped in their vehicles as floodwaters rose.

President George W. Bush issued a disaster declaration on April 24 for Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties, north of New York City, making them eligible for FEMA aid. President Bush also declared Bergen, Burlington, Essex, Passaic, Somerset and Union counties in New Jersey a federal disaster as a result of heavy rain and flooding.



## Tidbits *By Mary Stavina*

### Did you know?

Betty Farwell was appointed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' first female grade GS-16 in 1978. She joined the Corps in 1962 as assistant district counsel for Detroit and became the first female district counsel in 1968.

Farwell moved to Washington, D.C., in 1969 as assistant acquisition division chief in the Real Estate Directorate and became the chief of litigation in 1976.

She attended the University of Detroit Law School, where she graduated second in her class in 1949. In 1962 she received a letter from the Corps of Engineers expressing interest in her for the assistant district counsel position in Detroit. She became district counsel in February 1968—the first woman to hold that position. In 1976, Farwell was named chief of litigation for the Office of Counsel.

(USACE History Office)



# District completes first contract of Kill van Kull deepening project

By David Gentile  
Construction Division

In March, New York District completed the first contract of the Harbor 50-foot deepening contract in the Kill van Kull.

Over the past 24 months the dredging work was performed by Bean Stuyvesant, L.L.C. of New York, contractor of the project.

"This contract not only started the District's effort in the billion dollar project but also completed the designed 45-foot Deepening Project as well," said Hal Hawkins, project manager.

The project will ensure that the channel is able to safely and efficiently accommodate larger container ships that enter and leave the port. The dredging operation is part of an overall harbor deepening program conducted by the Corps and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey along with other sponsors.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey opened the 45-foot channel to Newark Bay in November 2004, but a section at Bergen Point remained, and this deepening project completed this area. The project involved dredging the Kill van Kill from 45 feet to 50 feet. The Kill van Kull is a 3-mile-long waterway that separates Staten Island, N.Y., and Bayonne, N.J.

The port indirectly and directly supports over 230,000 jobs in the New York metropolitan area and provides consumer goods ranging from cocoa and

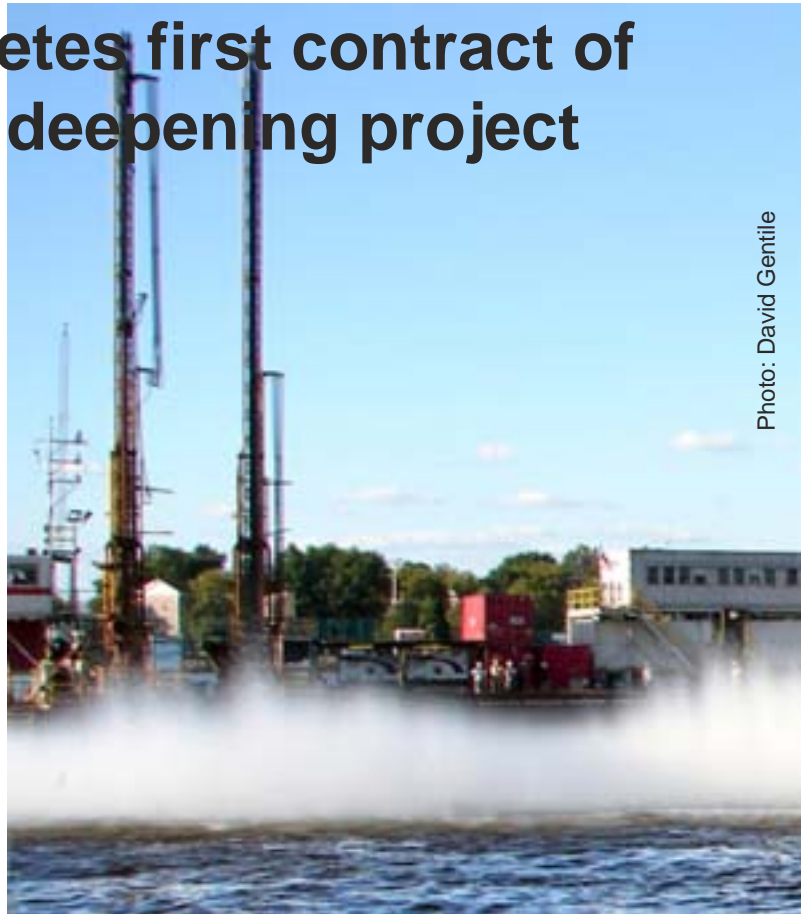
orange juice to automobiles. The Port of New York and New Jersey is one of the nation's largest container ports.

New York District's construction division experts Sam DiDato, resident engineer, and project engineers Sherif Guirguis and Edward Boyadjian oversaw daily operations and ensured a high quality product was accomplished safely. Paul Jalowski, area engineer, frequently held partnering and project delivery team meetings, which played a large role in the successful completion of the project.

*(Continued on page 7)*



The Kill van Kull is 3-mile-long waterway that separates Staten Island, N.Y., and Bayonne, N.J.



A blast goes off underwater in the Kill van Kull during the deepening project.

Photo: David Gentile

**Deepening the Kill van Kull (Continued from Page 6)**

Careful partnering between the Corps of Engineers, port authority, contractor, U.S. Coast Guard, and harbor and docking pilots was essential to the safety of the project as well as planning and executing buoy movements that minimized impact on dredging operations while keeping the channel open to maritime navigation. As a result of teamwork the project was completed ahead of schedule.

Dredges involved in the deepening operation included the Tauracavor, Maricavor, Bean 2, and Cashman sub-contractor dredges Jay Cashman and the Great Lakes' dredge New York.

The scope of the project included removing over 2.5 million cubic yards of dredged material that included solid rock that needed to be drilled and blasted before being excavated. Some rock pieces were as large as 10 feet in diameter. The blasting process required drilling holes in underwater rocks and detonating explosives to break the rock into pieces for removal by a dredge and to also minimize blasting vibrations.

Frank Belesimo, project manager for Bean Stuyvesant, was instrumental in devising and recommending solutions to challenges.

Public interface was extremely important in addressing local resident concerns during the blasting process. Many challenges were overcome, such as scheduling, planning buoy movements, working around shipping traffic, funding and public interface. It was a great success to be able to overcome all the adversities that could have been associated with a project of this magnitude.

In response to residents concerns, vibration monitor seismographs and noise monitors were set up and closely monitored by the Corps at multiple locations along the contract site with field inspections held frequently to ensure that all the work was done below the standard vibration and noise levels. Additional local meetings were held by the Corps to explain the project process to elected officials and to address their concerns.

**District unveils new commander's coin**

After much anticipation, the New York District commander's coin design has been unveiled.

The new coin was designed by Gustavo Sierra-Gonzalez and Vincent Perrera of Information Management.



The front of the coin features the Corps castle within an apple to denote New York City's nickname, the Big Apple, four 5-pointed stars, encircled by the words: relevant, ready, responsive, reliable – Cradle of the Corps established 1843 with an outer circle with the words: United States Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

The reverse side contains the Statue of Liberty with the Manhattan skyline, and eagle device with the words, "Awarded for Excellence" with an outer circle containing the words separated by eight 5-point stars, and Army values: Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal courage, and the word ESSAYONS!

Illustration: Vincent Perrera

**Zero Tolerance on the Job**



Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. Prevention is the best tool to eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace.

**EEO's 10 Commandments for Zero Tolerance**

- I. There is nothing positive about an office relationship.
- II. Do not flirt at the office.
- III. Do not touch, EVER! – If it involves more than shaking hands, do not do it.
- IV. Do not refer to body parts.
- V. Do not joke around with sexual humor.
- VI. There is no such thing as a minor complaint.
- VII. Follow the golden rule. If you were in the other person's shoes, how would you feel?
- VIII. If you would not do it or say it in front of your spouse, do not do it.
- IX. If you would object to it being done to your daughter or son, do not do it.
- X. If you do not want to read about it in the local newspaper, do not do it.

# Corps and Port Authority complete Arthur Kill channel 41-foot navigation project

On March 6, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey announced the completion of the Arthur Kill Channel 41-foot navigation project. The project entailed deepening the channel from 35 feet to 41 feet in the Elizabeth, N.J., Port Reach and the North of Shooter's Island Reach, N.Y., areas of the channel.

The project is part of an overall harbor deepening program that is being conducted by the Corps and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

In keeping with its mission to create a world-class harbor, the Corps and the Port Authority, along with other sponsors, are deepening the channels to ensure that the harbor is able to safely and efficiently accommodate the new megaships that are entering the Port.

"Deepening the Arthur Kill Channel to 41 feet is critical to realizing the full potential of the New York Container Terminal and marks an important milestone in building a world-class port and estuary," said Col. Nello Tortora, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. "The deeper channel will serve New York's largest marine terminal, which can now accommodate deeper draft vessels. In addition, this project consisted of the restoration and enhancement of approximately 23 acres of inter-tidal salt marsh, a win-win for the port, the environment and the economy."

"Deepening the harbor channels is a critical part of our strategy to grow the port business and to create jobs and economic activity for the region," said Anthony E. Shorris, executive director, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

"Deeper channels and berths, combined with a new on-dock rail system that will open shortly, will give Howland Hook the tools it needs to continue to compete for international business. These projects will significantly increase the port's cargo capacity -- a clear indication of the Port Authority's commitment to Howland Hook now and for years to come."

The Arthur Kill 41-foot navigation project



**New York Container Terminal, formerly known as Howland Hook Terminal on Staten Island, N.Y. In keeping with its mission to create a world-class harbor, the Corps and the Port Authority, along with other sponsors, are deepening the channels to ensure that the harbor is able to safely and efficiently accommodate the new megaships that are entering the port.**

spans the New York/New Jersey Harbor from the confluence of the Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay Channels to the New York Container Terminal in Staten Island and is an important link in the harbor estuary system.

The Arthur Kill navigation project was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and also includes deepening the channel to 40 feet mean low water from the New York Container Terminal to the Conoco Phillips (Tosco) Oil Terminal in New Jersey and GATX facilities in New York, as well as the environmental restoration and enhancement of approximately 23 acres of intertidal salt marsh at two sites in the Arthur Kill watershed.



**The Arthur Kill 41-foot navigation project spans the New York/New Jersey Harbor from the confluence of the Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay Channels to the New York Container Terminal in Staten Island.**



## Superfund PDT earns safety awards

By Eugene R. Urbanik, P.E., P.P.

New Jersey Area Engineer

Recently, a major safety milestone occurred at the Federal Creosote Superfund site in Manville, N.J., when over 500,000 accident-free man-hours was achieved.

As a result of this significant achievement, Col. Nello Tortora, commander, New York District recognized the project delivery team for their efforts in February at an awards ceremony held on site. Tortora presented awards to various members of the team in recognition of their success of achieving over 500,000 accident free man-hours.

"As we all know, jobsite safety is a non-negotiable item and relates to each and every individual involved in the project," said Tortora. "Just as important, safety is the one element in which the public judges the quality and success of our projects. The community understands that when our workers perform in a safe and well-protected manner, the nearby residents feel a strong sense of security especially on projects involving hazardous, toxic, and radiological waste."

The project exceeded \$165 million in contract placement; excavated, transported, and disposed of over 390,000 tons of material; treated over 75 million gallons of groundwater; remediated and restored 93 residential properties and a day care center, and is currently remediating a commercial strip mall.

"We also understand that we cannot replace the damage encountered by accidents. Hence, safety is always the highest priority and a core value on all Corps of Engineers projects," said Tortora.

The Federal Creosote company operated a wood treatment facility on 50 acres of land until the late 1950's. The site was eventually developed as the Rustic Mall and Claremont development. Soil which contained creosote from the wood treatment process was not removed prior to construction of the mall and the 137- property residential development.

In 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requested construction management assistance from the Corps. The Environmental Residency of the



**Brook Industrial Project Delivery Team. (l-r) Dino Vizzoca, Rick Alvarez, Col. Nello Tortora, Chris Nastasi, Gene Urbanik (holding award), Neal Kolb, Angelo Antzoulis, and Rich Puvogel.**

New Jersey Area currently leads the remedial action phase, and when completed in 2008, the overall project cost will exceed \$180 million, with 90 percent being Federally funded and 10 percent funded by the State of New Jersey. The project duration will total seven years.

Tortora attributed the outstanding safety record of the PDT to teamwork and strict attention to a number of basic but important steps.

Specifically, he noted that the entire project delivery team:

- recognized that safety is everyone's responsibility.
- conducted daily tailgate safety meetings for all employees.
- employed a dedicated safety staff including a full-time health and safety officer and safety technicians with no other assigned duties.
- integrated safety concerns into each definable feature of work.
- subscribed to a detailed accident prevention plan.
- utilized over 20 years of lessons learned from all of previous HTRW projects.
- conducted monthly reviews by a certified industrial hygienist and periodic Corps of Engineers industrial hygienist audits, and
- employed on-site safety refresher training and seminars.

*(Continued on Page 10)*

## Superfund PDT earns safety awards (Continued from Page 9)

Tortora concluded by presenting certificates of appreciation to over 75 team members from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Corps architect-engineering firm on the project, CDM Federal Programs, contractor Severson Environmental Services, Inc., and their subcontractors: Carner Brothers, Linde-Griffith, Kennon Surveying, and members of the Operating Engineers Local 825 union, Heavy Construction Laborers Local 472 union, and the Teamsters Local 560 union.

Tortora also presented an award to one of the Superfund project delivery teams. In January, at the National Superfund Remediation Conference, Headquarters USACE and Headquarters U.S. EPA selected the Brook Industrial Project Delivery Team for the 2007 Contract Management Award of the Year. The team was recognized for the outstanding contract management efforts in overcoming major scheduling challenges at the Brook Industrial Superfund site.

The \$3.8 million project located in Bound Brook, N.J., required an intense four months of actual construction involving the relocation of an active sewerage force main, remediation and restoration of a wetlands area and the remediation and repair of two chromium plating pits.

As a result of the efforts of this PDT, the project was completed within FY06, hence meeting a very critical customer completion date.

Award certificate recipients who played a key role in the successful completion of the project: Pete Maninno, remedial project manager, U.S. EPA Region II (led the PDT); Chris Nastasi, P.E., New York District senior project engineer and acting Picatinny Arsenal resident engineer; Dino Vizzoca, New York District construction representative, now assigned to Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Superfund site.

Tortora presented a plaque to the entire PDT which included: John Prince, section chief, U.S. EPA Region II; Neal Kolb, P.E., New York District environmental resident engineer; Angelo Antzoulis, New York District Superfund program manager; Rick Alvarez, P.E., chief, Construction Division; Gene Urbanik, P.E., P.P, New Jersey area engineer.

Tortora commended the entire PDT for executing our mission and delivering a quality product within time and budget constraints.

He also gave recognition to the military veterans and took the opportunity to acknowledge 10 individuals on the project site who have served our nation in a military capacity in the past and who currently continue to serve our country as Civilian and contractor employees.

"Today is a perfect time to once again thank these individuals for their unselfish service to our nation and to keep in our thoughts all of the Soldiers serving our country," said Tortora.



## Safety Corner

People often underestimate the force of water.

More than half of all flood-related deaths are attributed to vehicles that are swept downstream.

Of these drownings, many are preventable simply by not driving or walking onto flooded roads.

Most cars begin to float and lose contact with the road, assuming the road has not been washed out, in only 18-24 inches of water. Remember, when approaching a flooded roadway, turn around, don't drown.



Photo: Ed Wrocenski

**When approaching a flooded roadway, turn around, don't drown.**

## A whale of a recovery

On April 19, New York District's crew of the Hayward removed a dead Minke whale from the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Operations Division dispatched the Hayward with its 20-ton capacity crane to remove the carcass from the water.

According to news reports, the whale was first spotted on April 16 in the Gowanus Bay, a small estuary off Brooklyn that is the outlet from the canal, which is a waterway. Experts reported to the news that minke whales are a subspecies of baleen whales, common in the north Atlantic.

Tim Lafontaine, of District Operations in Caven Point, N.J., said it could have taken two days for the 3,500- to 5,000-pound carcass to surface on its own.

If not removed, it could have posed a hazard to navigation. The Hayward and crew then headed to Caven Point, Jersey City, N.J., where marine experts performed a necropsy to determine the cause of death.

District Operations boat crews have retrieved four dead adult whales in and around New York Harbor this century.



Photos: Peter Shugert

The crew of the Corps vessel Hayward uses its 20-ton capacity crane to remove the mammal carcass from the Gowanus Canal. NYPD officers and personnel of the NYPD scuba team successfully help retrieve the whale.



## District celebrates Earth Day

Over 200 area school students joined the environmental community throughout the region April 20 to celebrate Earth Day at the Marina City Dock in Elizabeth, N.J. The Corps teamed with event sponsor Future City Inc. and Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association, J. Christian Bollwage, mayor of Elizabeth, the Elizabeth Marina; Kean University; the offices of Sen. Robert Menendez; Reps. Donald Payne and Albio Sires; the U.S. Coast Guard; the New York and New Jersey Baykeeper; and Kean University.

Interactive educational stations were set up on the dock and the Corps vessel Hocking was used as a platform for an environmental harbor inspection. Students took advantage of the opportunity to speak openly with Corps biologists, engineers, archeologists and partners about

the estuary, the rich history of the harbor and its current condition, as well as get a hands-on view of marine life and ongoing port activities.

The students aboard the Hocking traveled along the Arthur Kill, a channel that flows between New Jersey and Staten Island. Students got an up close view of Shooter's Island in the Kill van Kull and learned about its historical significance.

"This fourth annual Earth Day event is a great opportunity to energize the students in Elizabeth, our future environmental leaders, about the health of their own estuary in the New York and New Jersey Harbor, and understand the connection between land and water," said Col. Nello Tortora, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

"The environmental educational workshops like Earth Day and Estuary Day are tangible manifestations of a year-round commitment to environmental education and stewardship within our watershed school consortia," said Michelle Doran McBean, CEO of Future City Inc.



Photo: JoAnne Castagna

Students examine a sea creature in the interactive tanks.

# Awards

## FEB selects three awardees from District

The New York Federal Executive Board selected three outstanding New York District employees for regional honors: Vanessa Davis of Emergency Operations, Arlene Petrosino of PPMD, and Pricilla Collado of Information Management.

They will be honored in a gala luncheon celebration on Ellis Island May 16 during Employee Recognition Week.



Pricilla Collado



Vanessa Davis



Arlene Petrosino

Photos: Dan Desmet

## Medal awarded to contract specialist



Scott Helmer

Scott Helmer, a contract specialist in the New York District Contracting Division, was awarded the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from HQ USACE. Col. Nello Tortora, commander New York District presented the medal to Helmer at a ceremony held March 20 at District headquarters.

Helmer was awarded the medal for his involvement in the Corps' contracting transformation effort. A framework was implemented for policy dissemination, program evaluation, and workforce development. The Corps contracting transformation will decentralize principal assistant responsible for contracting (PARC) duties from USACE HQ to three regional PARC offices in Atlanta, Ga., Winchester, Va., and Dallas, Texas.

## District lauded by Beach Preservation Association

New York District was recently honored by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association at an awards banquet held in New Jersey. Harry Simmons, ASBPA president, presided over an awards dinner held in April where Col. Nello Tortora, commander, New York District, and Lynn Bocamazo, senior coastal engineer, were honored for the District's work in the Sea Bright to Manasquan Inlet beach nourishment project in New Jersey.

In 2006, the New Jersey coastal beaches were named one of the top restored beaches in the country by the ASBPA. The 18 miles of Monmouth County shore from around the country cited for successful efforts to restore the health, ecology and protective benefit of their coastlines.

The beach project, conducted by New York District in partnership with the State of New Jersey, has reduced storm damage for more than 10 years. Designed as a storm protection project to prevent infrastructure damage from ocean storms along the heavily populated coastal area, the project involved creating a 100-foot-wide sand berm 10 feet above mean low water.

Bocamazo, a professional engineer, is responsible for coastal planning, engineering, construction, and operation and monitoring as the coastal works expert. She is also responsible for designing beach fills, coastal field data collection, and coastal engineering special studies. She has over 22 years of experience in coastal planning and coastal engineering.



Col. Nello Tortora, commander, New York District, holds a framed aerial photo of the Sea Bright to Manasquan Inlet, N.J. shoreline; and is flanked by Harry Simmons, ASBPA president; Lynn Bocamazo, senior coastal engineer; and Bernie Moore, formerly of the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection. Photo: ASBPA

## Milestones



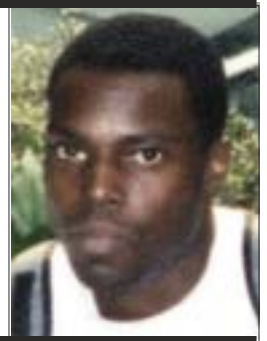
**Barbara Hebel**, assistant district counsel, Office of Counsel, New York District is one of five stand out athletes who will be inducted into the Rockland County, N.Y., Sports Hall of Fame May 5. Among them are a wrestling and baseball coach, a 14-season major league baseball player with the Yankees once with a 27-game hitting streak, a five-time All-County swimmer who at one time held 15 county records, and an All-County basketball and baseball player who became a premier basketball official at the collegiate level.

Hebel was an academic All-American in basketball at the University of Massachusetts. A multi-sport athlete at Clarkstown South, Hebel was a nine-time All-County selection, state qualifier in track, and a 1,000–point scorer in basketball. The induction ceremony will be held at the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame 34th annual dinner at the Italian American Club, West Haverstraw, N.Y. The Hall was founded to honor outstanding professional and amateur sportsmen and women, living and deceased, who have gained prominence while living in Rockland County, or who have brought fame and recognition to Rockland because of their athletic stature.

Patrice Parris, son of **Loretta Parris** of Contracting Division was named new head coach of men's soccer at North Georgia College & State University.

Parris was a four-year letter winner at Georgia Southern from 1994-97, and later joined the Statesboro, Ga., High School coaching staff.

Parris spent three years at Statesboro, helping them win back-to-back region championships. After that, he joined the Georgia Southern coaching staff where he served in that capacity until becoming head coach at North Georgia in February.



Spc. Steven Carminio, grandson of **Pauline Pugliese** of Operations Division is currently serving with the Army in the Middle East and was recently selected for promotion to sergeant. Carminio has served in Kuwait and Iraq and continues to support the country in the Global War on Terrorism.

Pauline Pugliese of Operations Division and grandson, Spc. Steven Carminio, U.S. Army.

New York District's executive assistant, **Lou Benard** is a prolific artist. Recently three of Benard's art creations were on exhibit at the stately French Renaissance in the Old American Fine Arts Building in Manhattan.

Benard is a student at the figure drawing and oil painting classes of Terrence Coyle, a renowned author of books on learning to draw from the Great Masters.



A gala reception was held at the fine arts building for the artists and attendees. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and home to the Art Students League of New York, of which Benard is a member.



**Lou Benard's** visual art creations are vibrant and colorful. Her creative human body in sequential poses was recently on exhibit.

## Corps achieves milestone at Superfund site

By Eugene R. Urbanik, P.E., P.P.  
New Jersey Area Engineer

In February, the Corps' New York District achieved a major milestone when it began the demolition of the industrial park facility at the Cornell Dubilier Electronics Superfund site.

From 1936 to 1962, Cornell Dubilier Electronics Inc. manufactured electronic parts and components, including capacitors in South Plainfield, N.J. It is alleged that during their operations the company dumped PCB-contaminated materials and other hazardous substances directly onto site soils.

Since then, numerous companies have operated at the site as tenants.

The total population estimated to live within one mile of the site is 8,700. It is estimated that over 500 residents live within a quarter mile of the site, and some residential homes are located less than 200 feet from the site.

The New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection recognized the magnitude of the problem and requested assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA's Region II conducted soil borings at the site and surrounding properties.

The soil at the site is contaminated with volatile organic compounds and PCBs. Also, building interiors at the site contain elevated levels of PCBs and metals which are probable human carcinogens. Contamination was extensive and uncontrolled, impacting sediment, soil, and groundwater and posing potential health risks to residents and tenants.

The EPA requested assistance from the Corps to clean up the site.

The magnitude and nature of the clean-up project provided an opportunity for a Corps team to be assembled with specialists from three Corps districts and two divisions. Personnel from each district play a critical role in the project.



Photo: Eugene Urbanik

**Building demolition begins at the Cornell Dubilier Electronics Superfund Site in February.**

New York District leads the Remedial Action Phase by managing a cost-reimbursable contract for the residential property work and a fixed-price contract for the demolition of the current industrial park located at the site of the former Cornell Dubilier Electronics Facility. The Environmental Residency of the New Jersey Area Office is managing on-site construction activities. Baltimore District is managing key commercial real estate relocation services and Kansas City District is responsible for remedial design and technical assistance.

Current work includes demolition and environmental abatement of 18 industrial buildings, transporting contaminated material to disposal facilities, and soil removal at four residential homes.

Extensive safety procedures are in place to protect the health of residents in, and near the site. Future work includes a railroad spur installation to reduce transportation and disposal costs, on-site soil treatment of the industrial park materials, the investigation of 59 additional residential properties, wetlands and groundwater.

The project has several more phases for completion, and is expected to cost over \$80 million. The industrial park soil remediation will begin after the demolition is completed in 18 months. The overall project is expected to be completed by 2011.

## District's programs align with mission to promote diversity

By Jean Lau, EEO

In commemoration of African-American History, Irish-American Heritage and Women's History, New York District teamed with the General Services Administration and co-sponsored a series of events.

Celebrations included creating bulletin board displays displaying prominent African-Americans, Irish-Americans and women who have changed the nation and the world. Raffles, food samplings, speakers and performers sparked the events. Proclamations from the President were circulated to employees, along with an Irish-American quiz and information about women's history.

The Harlem Renaissance Music & Rhythms ensemble performed and Spencer H. Lewis Jr., district director, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, New York Office, spoke about current African-American issues.

Highlighting the African-American program was an electrifying performance by the Magbana Drum and Dance Company coordinated by Alma Molina, one of several EEO special emphasis program managers.

Performers and speakers were presented District coins and apple certificates by Stu Piken, deputy district engineer, PPMD, and GSA certificates by John Scarcia, assistant regional administrator, General Services Administration, in recognition of their contributions.



The Magbana Drum and Dance Company put on an electrifying performance.

Photo: Dan Desmet

## Daughters and sons spend a day in the workplace

On April 24, New York District sponsored its annual "Bring your children to work day." Over 20 children of District employees participated in the event.

In addition to learning about what their parents do on the job, an arts and crafts activity was arranged by EEO's Alma Molina and Jean Lau.

The event kicked off early morning with a slide show and welcoming remarks by Col. Nello Tortora, District commander.

"The program gave the opportunity for parents who work for the New York District to introduce their children to the organization and its mission," said Estelle Capowski, chief, EEO.

A day at work helped children discover the



Office of Counsel staff explain to the children the roles and responsibilities of the various components of a court, including the judge, jury, attorneys, witnesses, bailiff, and court clerk.

Photo: Dan Desmet

link between what they do in school now and what they can become in the future.

"Many hands-on workshops and demonstrations were held at various offices and sites to show them what other groups are doing at the New York District," she said.

Security staff held an America's Youth Passport session complete with photographs and fingerprints. A mock employee orientation was conducted by Human Resources staff, and personnel from the Office of Counsel held a mock trial. Operations personnel demonstrated a desktop underwater topography and dredging activity, and Engineering staff conducted a model demonstration on flooding. The day ended with a safety briefing by the Safety Office staff.

# Corps completes work at Lang Superfund Site

By Kenneth Wells, Public Affairs

Throughout the years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been instrumental in serving the nation. Whether it's flood damage reduction, supporting war efforts, military construction or disaster relief, the Corps continues to turn out high quality work.

The Lang Property Superfund Site is the latest example.

In the 1970's, unauthorized dumping of hazardous waste, particularly chlorinated solvents, transformed a large portion of this property into an illegal disposal area.

The entire site, which consists of 40 acres of land located in Pemberton Township, N.J., is in close proximity to the Cohansey Aquifer, which supplies drinking water to Pemberton Township's 13,000 residents. Additionally, as many as 20 private wells are within a mile of this site and a back-up well for the Pemberton system is within three miles.

The property is also part of the Pinelands National Reserve, a forest expanse, which is recognized as one of the nation's valuable environmental resources. The site is located within the Central Pine Barrens Water Quality Critical Area and the Pinelands Preservation Area District.

"The site discovery came about in June of 1975 when local police officers observed a truck unloading drums," said Larry Granite, remedial project manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II.

"Upon further investigation, approximately 1,500 drums were discovered at the end of an unpaved road leading into the Lang Property Site. When the drums were removed, the contents leaked onto the ground and into the underlying soil and groundwater."



Photo: Evangelos Antzoulis

**Partial area of the 40-acre Lang Property Superfund Site in Pemberton Township, N.J.**

Working in tandem with the EPA, the Corps' New York District, in November 1988, began Phase I of the site cleanup by removing approximately 13,000 tons of contaminated soil, 24 crushed metal drums and other debris.

"We've worked well with the EPA

in the past," said Evangelos Antzoulis, New York District's project manager for the Lang Property Superfund Team.

Antzoulis went on to note that the EPA could have used other agencies or contractors, but instead selected the Corps because of its excellent track record on Superfund cleanups.

Residents living near the forested area weren't directly affected by the cleanup efforts, nor businesses, which consist of local farms with blueberry fields and cranberry bogs.

Phase II of the cleanup began in August 1994 with the construction of a pump and treatment plant used to separate chemicals from the site's contaminated groundwater supply. During this process, New York District extracted contaminated groundwater, subjected it to a treatment process designed to remove hazardous chemicals, then re-injected the water to a deeper aquifer.

The remediation of the groundwater was a long-term process requiring careful monitoring over time. To date, over 306 million gallons of ground water were extracted and the EPA completed five-year reviews of the site in 2000 and 2005.

The five-year reviews documented that the remedy continued to be protective of public health and the environment.

*(Continued on Page 17)*



## Corps completes work at Lang Superfund Site (Continued from Page 16)

The site's remote location proved to be a minor challenge for New York District. The District was able to overcome the distance issue through effective communication, scheduling around adverse weather conditions and using technology that enabled them to monitor the treatment plant, during the O&M phase, from a remote location.

Personnel from the Corps' Kansas City District also played a role by designing the treatment plant for the groundwater issue, and personnel from the Corps' Philadelphia District performed the design on the source soil excavation phase.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was also involved and played a key role.

"The U.S. EPA was the lead on this site with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Pro-

tection providing a supporting role on funding, technical assistance and quality assurance," said Bob McKnight, section chief for the EPA's Region II.

"The NJDEP reviewed various reports and monitored the progress of the remediation."

"We're very happy with the end result for this project," said Antzoulis. "This project shows that U.S. EPA and the Corps of Engineers continue to be protective of public health and the environment."

The EPA successfully coordinated the transfer of the site responsibilities to the State of New Jersey Dec. 31. The total cost for the project was approximately \$26 million and the primary contractors included Severson Environmental Services Inc. of Niagara Falls, N.Y., and R.E. Wright Environmental Inc. of Middletown, Pa.

## Employee orientation resource available on District's intranet



By Rena Weichenberg, Leadership Development Program

New York District is a dynamic place.

It can also be a confusing place for new employees.

Given recent changes in processes within the District, including the introduction of the civilian access card intake system, things can become equally confusing to new employees and supervisors alike.

Fortunately, this situation has changed due to a New Employee Orientation page on the New York District intranet.

The computer access links both the supervisor and the new employee with simplified flowcharts to help ensure the new employee gains quick access to both the computer and financial management systems.

The link brings a warm letter of welcome from the District commander.

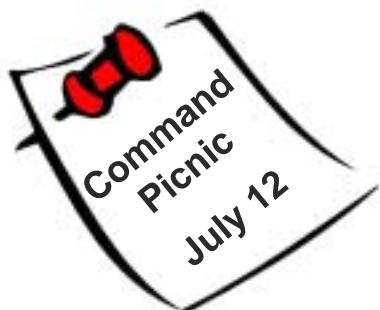
Continue on to the New York District Employee Handbook with information on a host of topics, including work schedules, federal employee benefits, safety and security issues as well as building facilities.

A Checklist link contains steps for supervisors in preparation for a new employee, and steps new employees should take during their first days of employment, as well as a 'Have You Done This?' checklist, which lists the critical timeframes for benefit actions.

Log onto the intranet and check out the New Employee Orientation link today at:

<https://intranet.nan.usace.army.mil>

Welcome Aboard!



# New fitness center opens at Fort Drum, N.Y.

By Maj. Charlotte Rhee

In mid-February, New York District, along with representatives of Fort Drum celebrated another milestone with a ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening the Pine Plains Physical Fitness Center following a year-long remodeling and expansion project.

At the ceremony, remarks and special recognition were given by Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, commander, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and Fort Drum; Brig. Gen.(P) Merdith W. B. "Bo" Temple, director, Military Programs, HQ USACE; and Col. Nello Tortora, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

The \$5,735,143 design/build project brought state-of-the-art equipment and added 18,000 square feet to the facility.

The new facility boasts a 6,000-square-foot strength and conditioning center with a cardio room and a strength conditioning room. Also added were a reception area, multipurpose rooms and a whirlpool room.

The new additions and renovations were completed to support the physical fitness and wellness for Soldiers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division who normally conducted their physical exercise training in sub-zero temperatures because only one gymnasium was available.

With a collaborative effort between the Corps, Fort Drum and contractor Purcell Construction Co., the project was designed, constructed and delivered in ten months and 10 percent under budget — two months ahead of schedule at \$673,102 cost savings.



The new Pine Plains Physical Fitness Center, Fort Drum, N.Y.

## PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM

Ed Sim, program manager

Phil Favret, project manager

Michael Rounds, project engineer

John Steinbeck, resident engineer

Brett Gorham, team leader

Matthew Walsh, construction manager

Robert Gerrits, chief of engineering management, who provided in-house design guidance

# Corps breaks ground for new fire station at Niagara Falls, N.Y.

By Armando Jimenez and Maj. Charlotte Rhee

A ground breaking ceremony was held in January for the construction of a new emergency services fire station for the Air National Guard at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. It is a testament to the relentless dedication and diligence of a combined effort between the Army and Air Force, Niagara County Legislature, Niagara Military Affairs Community, the local community and small businesses.

New York District is building the 30,343-square-foot station for the 914<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Command at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The station was designed by Louisville District and will improve the work conditions of men and women who serve in Niagara County. SLR Contracting & Services Co. Inc. was awarded the station project for \$7,870,000.

The station is a steel-framed structure of concrete foundation with slab on grade flooring, brick veneer exterior and steel-framed gable-type roof for offices, dormitories, an alarm central station, apparatus bays, all utilities and roads and parking lots. The new station will provide the best facilities for firefighters to train, maintain regional security, and to more rapidly respond to local emergencies in the Air Reserve Station and community to save lives.

## PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM

Douglas Sommer  
chief, Military Programs Branch

Armando Jimenez

program manager

Anne Spiegelberg

contract specialist

Ella Snell

contracting officer

Dom Passantino, area engineer

Mike Hrywnak

construction

project engineer

# District real estate program houses families

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D., PPMD

At Fort Drum, N.Y., there is an urgent need for affordable quality housing for military families on and off post due to the overall organizational changes ongoing in the Army. In 2005, Fort Drum informed New York District that they were in urgent need of temporary, affordable, quality homes off base, within the commuting distance, by 2009.

In response to this need, Fort Drum is constructing new homes or improving existing units. The Corps is also building new barracks for unmarried military personnel. To solve the temporary housing need, New York District created an innovative Domestic Lease Program designed to encourage developers to build or rehab temporary housing off base for Soldiers and their families. New York District, in cooperation with the Fort Drum housing office team, researched the community off base.

"This program encourages land developers to construct or rehabilitate new temporary housing specifically for Army Soldiers and their families from bases that are in a difficult market to find housing," said Noreen Dresser, chief of Real Estate, New York District. "We reached out to developers and told them of this new demand on Army families. In addition, we offered to speak to the developer's leads as they pursued their own resources from banks or other sources for housing construction, rent and operating and maintenance for the housing."

The District informed the public about the program through newspaper ads and by contacting community groups, including banks and financial institutions to encourage them to lend for construction, refurbishments and to develop new housing. The District also worked with interested developers on unique development needs and with state and local officials.

Developer Mike Treanor and Associates contacted the Corps with an interest in the Domestic Lease Program. Treanor purchased an apartment complex close to the fort and developed it into 27 housing units. The Corps ensured the property met the Army's housing criteria. The company received money from a financial lender and used it to create an additional 33 new housing units.

"This development sent a positive message to the market early on," said Dresser.

Since then, Mike Treanor and Associates have renovated over 40 homes and purchased a factory on the Black River to convert into 32 additional apartments — all for the purpose of providing military families temporary affordable housing.

Clover Management, one of the largest developers of affordable housing in New York State, also contacted the Corps with interest. They signed a contract for 103 acres of property just outside of Fort Drum to build 648 apartments, 418 with two bedrooms and 230 three bedrooms, including an Olympic-size swimming pool, community room and physical fitness facility.

The Domestic Lease Program is an innovative program from other government programs. "The government would normally select one developer to do all of the work. What we did is create a natural free market approach with healthy competition," said Dresser.

According to Dresser, New York District is encouraging other Corps districts to implement this program. "This past summer we assisted the Alaska District in implementing this program," said Dresser.

"The program is improving the economy of the community by bringing in more residents, increased revenue, new jobs for developers and construction companies; and improving the infrastructure by rehabilitating existing homes and creating new ones. Most importantly the program is providing quality, affordable temporary housing close to the fort for our military families at no cost to the Government," said Dresser.



**A school outside of Fort Drum was renovated and turned into affordable housing for military families.**



Members of the Metropolitan Engineers Society Council Inc. took the time for a group photo op following a ceremony held at Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, N.Y., in honor of Engineer Week. Costas "Gus" Lymberis (third from left) of New York District participated in the February ceremony.

Participants also included New York State Senator Frank Padavan.

Lymberis in the past has volunteered during Engineer Week to speak to students about the engineering profession. Lymberis is also the treasurer of the MESC Inc.

## A reminder for all employees

### Personnel accountability procedures in the event of an emergency:

In the event of an emergency, New York District personnel should first make every effort to contact their supervisor in accordance with locally established plans.

For some reason, if personnel are unable to follow local personnel accountability procedures, employees should then use the USACE toll-free phone number or alternatively use the e-mail address within 72 hours of an emergency or an evacuation.

Toll free phone number: 1-877-HI-USACE (1-877-448-7223)

E-mail address: [877.hi.usace@usace.army.mil](mailto:877.hi.usace@usace.army.mil)



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New York District

Attn: PAO, Rm 2113  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY 10278-0090

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