

The New York District Times



Summer 2007 Vol. 32, No. 3

'Cradle of the Corps'

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

Driftmaster named Boat of the Year

The debris collection vessel *Driftmaster* was selected as New York District's Boat of the Year and now has the honor of flying the "safety and efficiency" flag from its mast.

The *Driftmaster* was selected from among seven Corps vessels from New York District's fleet, based at Caven Point, N.J., Robert Pivrotto is the chief of the Support Branch.

Driftmaster met the strict criteria outlined in the competition guidelines and was chosen as a result of its superior record in the category of safety and overall performance efficiency.

The award was bestowed on the vessel due to its outstanding performance by crewmembers Rich Bulvid, master; Dan Florio, assistant master; Bill Carl, chief engineer; Dan Reddan, assistant engineer; and deckhands Greg Gorenflo, Mike Skalitza and Adam Manzano.

A wooden plaque mounted with a chronometer and engraved with the words, "Safety and Efficiency," and award flag were presented to the crew by Col. Nello Tortora, commander, New York District.

The plaque was mounted on the bulkhead of the vessel, denoting the significant achievement.

The award was conceived in 1977. It is the only Support Branch competition in the Operations Division, and is awarded annually. Several factors are considered in selecting the Boat of the Year, such as total hours of availability, operations, conditions, and the age of the vessel.



The Corps vessel *Driftmaster* during debris removal operations in the New York Harbor. Photo: Dan Desmet



The crew of the *Driftmaster*. (l-r) Greg Gorenflo, deckhand; Mike Skalitza, deckhand; Dan Florio, assistant master; Bill Carl, chief engineer; Col. Nello Tortora, commander, New York District; Rich Bulvid, master; Dan Reddan, assistant engineer; and Adam Manzano, deckhand.



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

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Colonel's Corner

Teammates,

Last quarter in this column, I wrote about the importance of teamwork and how being a “team of teams” is critical to accomplishing our project delivery mission. This quarter, I would like to offer some insights from Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, our new Chief of Engineers, about his priorities, tenets, and Corps teamwork. The Chief uses the acronym ‘TEAM’ to describe his command philosophy:

Are you a teammate? Are you working within your role to accomplish great things with the team for the success of the team? Do you take ownership and responsibility for the team’s mission? If you are a “coach,” do you make every teammate feel special? Do you understand you get more from praising than from threatening?

T... Trust. Do you believe in the honesty and reliability of others? What builds trust? What does micromanagement do to trust? Are you transparent in your communications (letting people know the truth and their exposure to risk)? Are you frank, open, and have the best interests of others in mind? What does trust look like between District, Division, and HQ?

E... Excellence. Are you passionate about what you are doing? Are you committed to top performance? Do you base judgments and solutions on sound science and business practices? Is quality an essential and distinguishing attribute of your service? Do you and your team plan thoroughly yet remain flexible?

A... All about people. Do you invest in people? Do you accept, understand, recognize, and appreciate others? Are you looking for the four Cs (character, competency, commitment, and chemistry)? Do you create opportunities for those you lead? Are you “building the bench?” Do you have a mentor, and are you a mentor for others?

M... Motivating. Do you have a passion for what you do? Do you invite your people to a bigger story with purpose, greatness, and destiny? Do you strive to win because winning motivates? Are you building momentum that will sustain motivation? Are you motivating toward a legacy, a contribution to the next generation and beyond?

To focus the efforts of USACE, the Chief has established six priorities and three tenets. The Chief’s six priorities tell us what the Corps is going to do and his three tenets tell us how the Corps will operate as we do them.

This is a great and wonderful time to be part of New York District and the Army Corps of Engineers. The amount of work we are doing across our programs is unprecedented. This is why it is so important to deliver on the USACE priorities --people are counting on us. Each one of you, working with your teammates internal and external to the District, is critical to delivering projects to our customers. To get it done, to deliver quality projects on schedule and budget, we must stay focused on execution and work as a team of teams. There are always obstacles and challenges that make our service to the Nation exciting, but working as a team, we will get it done.

Thanks for all your outstanding service!

Essayons!



Col. Nello Tortora
Commander

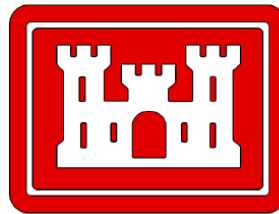
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Priorities and Tenets

Priorities

- **Support Global War on Terrorism and expeditionary missions**
- **Enhance quality of support to Soldiers, Civilians, Families, and the Public**
- **Complete transformation of the Theater Engineer Commands**
- **Effectively prepare for and respond to disasters**
- **Enable Gulf Coast recovery**
- **Deliver Military, Civil Works, and R&D programs and projects**

Tenets

- **Communicate transparently**
- **Focus on your mission**
- **Team with industry**



Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp Jr.
Chief of Engineers

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp became the 52nd Chief of Engineers and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers May, 17, 2007. Van Antwerp has taken charge of the nation's leading public engineering agency.

His previous assignment was as Commanding General, U.S. Army Accessions Command and Deputy Commanding General for Initial Military Training at Fort Monroe, Va. The Army Accessions Command consists of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky.; U.S. Army Cadet Command, Fort Monroe, Va.; and the U.S. Army Training Center, Fort Jackson, S.C.

Additionally, he exercised Department of the Army-directed executive agent authority over the Military Entrance Processing Command.

Command assignments include the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood/Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District during the Northridge Earthquake of 1994; the U.S. Army Engineer Division, South Atlantic, Atlanta, Ga.; and the 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during Operations Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Other assignments include Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Washington;

Director, Office of Competitive Sourcing, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition), Washington;

Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington; Executive Office, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington; Chief, Military Engineering and Construction Division, U.S. Army Western Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; Executive Officer, 84th Engineer Battalion, 45th General Support Group, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and Instructor, Department of Mechanics, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York.

Van Antwerp graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1972. He completed Ranger, Airborne and Air Assault training, the Engineer Officer Basic Course and the Engineer Officer Advanced Course. He holds a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan and a Master of Business Administration from Long Island University in New York. He is a Registered Professional Engineer. He is married and has three sons and two daughters.

Corps breaks ground at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey

By Kenneth Wells, Public Affairs

Throughout history, events have shown that one of the most devastating natural phenomenon known to man is fire. However, the inability to properly fight fires can be even more dangerous. On July 23, New York District took the first step toward making sure the firefighters at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey have the best chance to combat fires and other disaster-related missions by breaking ground on a state-of-the-art fire station.

The Picatinny Fire and Emergency Service Division provides installation fire suppression, fire prevention and first responder services for medical emergencies and hazardous material incidents. Personnel are also involved in mutual-aid agreements with several surrounding municipalities and Morris County that require response to emergency calls outside the installation's gates. This new fire station will make accomplishing all of these missions a little easier.

"The current Picatinny Fire and Emergency Service Division is housed in one facility and located on a section of Picatinny Arsenal called Navy Hill," Rich Mandra, project manager for New York District, explained. "This location doesn't meet the Army's requirements for response time or mileage distance and in order for Picatinny Arsenal to be able to support force protection measures that has to change. The new fire station's central location will solve that problem."

Mandra went on to say that the current fire station is a converted horse stable on the National Register of Historic Places, making it difficult to renovate to meet quality-of-life standards for on-duty firefighters. Some of the problems include inadequate sleeping quarters, a communication center unable to accommodate physically handicapped operators, lack of space to store emergency vehicles and no physical fitness room.

The new 15,000-square-foot facility will solve all of the problems outlined above and accommodate six emergency vehicles including two pumping trucks, one ladder truck, one HAZMAT truck and one mini-pump truck. Most importantly, the new facility will help the firefighters improve upon the key element in doing their jobs: response time. Greater response time and distance to emergencies can cause injury or death as well as unnecessary damage to property.

Some of the design challenges included keeping the project cost within the programmed amount, while also trying to accommodate the fire department's requirements. This project was not originally included in the FY06 MILCON program but Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, New Jersey's 11th

District, played an instrumental role in securing the funds.

Other challenges included choosing the appropriate site to optimize response time and making sure that the new construction wouldn't violate environmental restrictions because of the presence of trees that could be inhabited by the Indiana Bat, an endangered species.

The new fire station is scheduled to be completed in June 2008 at a cost of \$4 million. The contractor for this project is Ajay Construction of Green Brook, N.J.



Breaking ground for new fire station at Picatinny Arsenal. (l-r) Saleem Mithwani, Picatinny Arsenal master planner; Richard Havrisco, Picatinny Arsenal director, Department of Public Works; Eugene Urbanik, Corps of Engineers New Jersey Area engineer; Brig. Gen. William N. Phillips, Picatinny Arsenal installation commander; Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen; Lt. Col. John P. Stack, Picatinny Arsenal Garrison commander; Richard Karlsson, director of Emergency Services; and Ronald Guidettim, Picatinny Arsenal acting fire chief.



Artist's rendering of new fire station.

Corps crane operators attribute safety record to training

By Vince Elias, Public Affairs

Training, pre-planning and teamwork are attributed to the Troy Lock and Dam maintaining an exceptional safety record over the past 15 years. Providing crane safety training for maintenance personnel and the recent licensing of the personnel who operate the crane are examples of the Albany Field Office's commitment to safety.

Troy Lock and Dam in upstate New York is part of New York District's Operations at the Albany Field Office. The facility is under the leadership of William Petronis, who manages all field office activities, and David Salton, maintenance foreman, who supervises daily operations.

Personnel at Troy Lock and Dam deal with safety, security and emergencies, and also initiate rescue and emergency actions. The lock is operated 16 hours a day, seven days a week, with lock personnel being responsible for the movement of vessels in the lock and its approaches.

The facility has a great safety record doing this work, primarily attributed to teamwork, training, vigilance, lessons learned, and a common sense of situational awareness.

As part of their responsibilities, several members of the field office maintenance unit are trained and licensed to operate a Lorraine 35-ton mobile hydraulic crane. The crane is operated on land as well as from a sectional barge system to perform maintenance and repairs, remove debris and obstructions, and to lift various equipment, parts and structures.

The requirement for crane operators to be licensed is not new. It has been included in the Corps' safety and health requirements manual since the mid-'90s and follows Corps policy that all personnel demonstrate their proficiency in order to operate cranes and other material handling equipment. However, finding qualified crane trainers and licensing instructors has been challenging. Enter Ron Barkley, crane instructor from the Detroit District, a long-time Corps employee who began his career as a deck hand.

"He (Barkley) became a boat operator, crane operator and is now safety chief and trains and licenses crane operators in Detroit District," said Paula Higgins safety officer, New York District.

Barkley's experience taught him that teamwork and safety is crucial when you're operating a crane from a work float on the open river and in the lock approaches.

"This work can be very hazardous and requires experience, training and teamwork to accomplish the mission safely," said Higgins. The team consists of Patrick Wells, boat captain; Tim Rafter,



Rob Barkley, safety chief and crane certified trainer, holds training on 35-ton Lorraine hydraulic crane at Troy Lock and Dam. (l-r) Ray Lo, Rob Barkley, Anthony Sanseverino, Kevin Bleau, Adam Niecarz, and Brian Butler.

work leader; Anthony Sanseverino, crane operator; Stan Fleszar, maintenance/deckhand; Adam Niecarz, maintenance/deckhand; Brian Butler, mechanic; and Kevin Bleau, maintenance. "The team recognizes the hazards and is very motivated to work safely. Part of the proficiency testing includes setting up an obstacle course that the operators have to guide a load around. They are also required to pass a 50-question written exam."

In order to be licensed, it is required that equipment operators successfully complete the written evaluation test to prove their technical knowledge of the equipment, and to satisfactorily demonstrate their proficiency in the operation of each type of crane, for which they are to be licensed. While in a trainee status, they may only operate under the direct supervision of a fully licensed operator.

According to Higgins, crane licensing qualification and the recent safety milestone were achieved through composite risk management applied to their daily work activities.

Recent licensing of personnel was a career milestone also for Anthony Sanseverino, who joined the Albany Field Office as a crane operator in May after completing a six-year tour in the Army. During his active duty in Iraq, Sanseverino operated cranes to set bridges, and trained his fellow Soldiers in crane operation. He now is the primary crane operator for the Albany Field Office and responsible for overseeing the development of trainees.

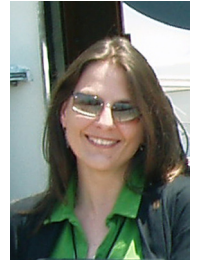


Scott Harris became the Chief, Public Affairs for New York District in June. His last assignment was as public affairs officer with the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Va., where he was responsible for media relations. Harris has held a number of communications and public

affairs positions with the Navy. He served as the director, Corporate Communications, Office of Naval Research, Washington; deputy director, Public Affairs, U.S. Space Command, Colorado Springs, Colo.; department head, Public Affairs, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72); director, Public Affairs, Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, Washington, D.C.; and director, Media Services and Marketing, Navy National News Desk, the Pentagon. Harris holds a bachelor's degree in speech communication from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and a master's degree in communications from the University of Oklahoma – Norman. He is also a trained nuclear engineer and nuclear submarine operator.

Welcome Aboard

Rebecca Callahan arrived at New York District as the public affairs specialist for the Harbor Programs Branch in PPMD. She hails from Manhattan, N.Y. Her former duty assignment was with the American Red Cross in Greater New York where she worked in the Media Relations, Marketing and Communications division. She is married to Sridhar Srinivasan, a professor at DeVry University.



Summer Program hires

Andrew Awad, OP	Suzanne LeBarron, CO
Cindy Diaz, OP	Timothy Lubitz, CO
Alan Dickson, OP	Jennifer Mak, EX
Gladys Durand, CO	Patrick McKeivitt, CO
Christopher Jon Eng, OP	Danielle Moseley, CT
Allen Ford, EN	Peter Olmstead, OP
Anthony Gerace, OP	Eliot Smith, PPMD
David Hastings, PPMD	Miguel Surage, OP
William Kiss, OP	Sarah Taylor, CO
Alison Lauria, PPMD	Larry Young, OP



Tidbits

By Mary Stavina

Did you know?

Congress rewarded a Revolutionary War engineer for his role in taking Stony Point, N.Y., in July 1779?

The British captured Stony Point on the Hudson River on June 1, 1779. Possession of the forts brought a key part of the river under enemy control and threatened the American position less than 15 miles to the north at West Point. After reinforcing Stony Point, the British commander regarded it as a “little Gibraltar.”

Gen. George Washington planned a daring surprise assault. On the night of July 15-16, Lt. Col. Francois de Fleury, an engineer in command of a battalion in the 1st Regiment of Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne's Corps of Light Infantry, led one of two simultaneous attacks on Stony Point. In the hour after midnight, de Fleury single-handedly struck the colors of the British 17th Regiment of foot.

Invaders and defenders engaged in furious hand-to-hand combat. At 2 a.m., Brig. Gen. Wayne triumphantly wrote Gen. Washington, “The fort and garrison . . . are ours. Our officers and men behaved like men who are determined to be free.” Washington abandoned the fort a few days later for lack of resources. The British reoccupied the site, making it stronger. Reinforcements never arrived, so they gave it up in October.

In recognition of their action, Congress awarded a gold medal to Brig. Gen. Wayne, and silver medals to Francois de Fleury and Maj. John Stewart, who commanded a battalion in the 2nd Regiment of Wayne's Corps. Congress noted that de Fleury and Stewart exhibited a bright example to their brother soldiers, and merit in a particular manner the approbation and acknowledgment of the United States. De Fleury, one of several French engineers to volunteer for service in the Continental Army, was the only foreigner so honored during the Revolutionary War.

Today the Army Engineer Association awards replicas of the de Fleury medal to individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army engineering. Bronze and silver medals recognize service to the Engineer Regiment. The gold medal recognizes “boldness, courage, and commitment to a strong national defense.” On the front is inscribed in Latin – “A memorial and reward of courage and boldness.” On the reverse – “Fortifications, marshes, enemies overcome.”

Source: USACE History Office



The de Fleury Medal

Division Engineer emphasizes team concept at town hall

By Sue Hopkins, Public Affairs

“I am very, very impressed with this district,” Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite told New York District employees during a Town Hall meeting Aug. 21.

The North Atlantic Division commander followed with a firm statement that “every single thing that is great in the Corps of Engineers is in New York District.”

The general lauded the District’s work in Military Construction Transformation as the biggest success story in the division and praised the Emergency Operations unit for its outstanding work. He also congratulated the District on its ongoing efforts to place employees affected by the Information Management restructuring.

Most of Semonite’s talk focused on the team concept stressed by the new USACE commander, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, and his vision of the Corps as the engineering organization of choice for our customers because we deliver products that are better, faster, less costly and built using safer, environmentally friendly practices.

The goal for NAD – and for all of USACE – is to move from good to great by ensuring the right people are in the right jobs as part of a team of teams that are disciplined and focused on successful project delivery.

Semonite also highlighted the Division’s goal to plan and work to become what the organization needs to be in five years. The focus here isn’t just processes and efficiency, he explained. “We need to be effective first.”

The face of the Corps, he told District employees, is the people in the field who work with the customer at the most basic level. Planning for the Division’s future must prioritize efforts to support project delivery, the work force, regionalization and strategic relationships, he said. The goal is to make the organization better and the core of that is building better projects.

As a prime example of how things are changing, he pointed to the distribution of Base Closure and Realignment Commission work at Fort Belvoir, Va., and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. The “old way” of doing things would place the burden for all of the work on the district with geographic responsibility for the sites – Baltimore District. The “new way” is to distribute the work throughout the division, even relying on Europe District for backup, to leverage the assets of the entire region to ensure successful project delivery. New York District has responsibility for the \$1 billion Washington Headquarters Service building,



Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, commander, North Atlantic Division at the Town Hall meeting at New York District in August 2007. Photo: Vince Elias

which will provide new office space for a variety of Defense Department agencies now using leased space throughout the Washington, D.C., area.

As the presentation concluded, Col. Aniello L. Tortora, New York District commander, gave the general a redesigned District coin as a thank you for visiting. The general also visited a project in the Support for Others program in which the District is assisting New York City.

NAD Vision

One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable, proudly serving the Armed Forces and the Nation now and in the future.

A full-spectrum engineer force of high-quality Civilians and Soldiers, working with our Partners to deliver innovative and effective solutions to the Nation’s engineering challenges.

- ✓ Create a world-class Major Subordinate Command work force
- ✓ Aggressively execute the division’s missions
- ✓ Realize the benefits of regionalization
- ✓ Strengthen and foster our strategic relationships

District hosts 244th Engineering Construction Battalion

By Vince Elias, Public Affairs

In August, over 240 Army engineer Soldiers from various reserve units from Colorado and Texas performed their active training at Fort Dix, N.J.

The units included Soldiers from the Army's 244th Engineering Construction Battalion based at Fort Collins and Denver Co., and units from Austin, Paris and Seagullville, Texas. Senior ranking military personnel included Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre, Commanding General, 416th Engineer Command, and Brig. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, Commander, 420th Engineer Brigade. Texas units included the 277th Engineer Company with elements from the 952nd Engineer Combat Support Equipment Company; 980th Engineer (combat heavy) Construction Battalion, Charlie Co.; and the 808th Engineer Platoon, Pipeline Construction Co.

At Fort Dix, their active training included vertical and horizontal construction missions to upgrade facilities at Fort Dix for mobilizing Reservists.

On Aug. 13 New York District hosted the Soldiers during American History Day, a celebration of patriotism that included promotions, reenlistments and walking tours at various monuments, landmarks and attractions in the Big Apple.

District personnel provided tours for the Soldiers at Ground Zero at the World Trade Center site, a New York Harbor inspection and a visit to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, a former Navy aircraft carrier.

Thomas Creamer, Randall Hintz, Maj. Samantha Ross, Joseph Seebode, and personnel from the Operations Support Branch at Caven Point, and logistics and public affairs personnel contributed to events during American History Day.

The day kicked off with the Soldiers being divided into two groups.

"Over half of the Soldiers are combat veterans who have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan," said Staff Sgt. John Severson, Training NCO, B Co., with the 244th Army Engineer Construction Battalion.

The groups were bused to the Intrepid, which is undergoing renovations while berthed at Staten Island, N.Y.

As the Soldiers walked along the narrow passageway on the main deck referred to as "Broadway," Robert Luisi of the Intrepid staff spoke about the museum and the former aircraft carrier's history. The Soldiers ultimately navigated their way up the narrow ladders to the hangar bay -- now used as a stage and center for visiting dignitaries and the site of Fleet Week crew entertainment. The

group made its way to the flight deck, where retired military aircraft are on exhibit and the location of a group photograph taken alongside a Blackbird SR71 aircraft.

Aboard the Corps vessel *Hayward* the Soldiers got their sea legs and experienced what it's like to be a crewmember underway aboard a Corps vessel. Pfc. Ryan Swain and Pfc. Richard Flores, both from the 244th ECB, Bravo Co., had the opportunity to take the controls of the helm and steer the *Hayward*.

As the *Hayward* approached the Statue of Liberty National Monument, the site of a promotion and reenlistment ceremony, an FDNY fireboat rendered a water canon salute in their honor.

A tour of Ground Zero followed, with a visit to an FDNY fire station, where Ladder Co. 10, and Engine Co. 10 are housed adjacent Ground Zero where Soldiers met and spoke with firefighters.

Continued on Page 9



Aboard the Army Corps vessel *Hayward*, Staff Sgt. Theresa A. Schaeffer of the 452nd Engineer Co., is reenlisted by Maj. Major Gen. Michael R. Eyre, Commanding General, 416th Engineer Command near the Statue of Liberty National Monument. Photo: Dan Desmet

District hosts 244th Engineer Construction Battalion (Cont'd from page 8)

“Ground Zero is where the Global War on Terrorism began,” said Col. Nello Tortora, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

“Many Soldiers appreciated the opportunity to meet and speak with some of the firefighters who invited them into their quarters,” said Randall Hintz, chief, technical support, Operations Division, New York District. “There was a lot of mutual admiration between the two groups. The New York City firefighters showed them some of the somber memories of 9/11 on display around the fire station.”

“Witnessing the swearing in during the reenlistment ceremony, on the deck of the *Hayward* in front of the Statue of Liberty was awesome,” Hintz added.

“The members of the New York District team have intimate knowledge of the World Trade Center site because of the role the Army Corps played in the emergency response and recovery effort after the terrorist attack,” said Joseph Seebode, program manager, PPMD, New York District.

This day was for the Soldiers of the 244th Engineer Construction Battalion, but it ended up being rewarding for the New York District as well.

“This day gave the members of the New York District a chance to support the Soldiers and their families that support us every day,” said Tortora.

Most of the Soldiers had never been to New York City. They were grateful for the time and energy District team members expended in making their trip one that they will remember for a long time.

“It’s a good feeling to have been a part of this day knowing the continuing sacrifices made by our Soldiers all around the world,” added Seebode.

The day ended with a walking tour of the World Financial Center, before the groups dovetailed at St. Paul’s Church on Broadway for a return trip to Fort Dix.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us. We’re really grateful to the Corps of Engineers for all the work they put in arranging such a fascinating day in New York,” said Staff Sgt. John R. Severson.

(JoAnne Castagna, PPMD, contributed to this article.)

Two Soldiers from the 244th Engineer Construction Battalion observe the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum from the deck of the Hayward. Photo: Vince Elias



Thomas Creamer, Chief of Operations, New York District and a group of Soldiers from the 244th Engineer Construction Battalion at Ground Zero at the World Trade Center site. Photo: Vince Elias



Pfc. Ryan Swain and Pfc. Richard Flores, both of B Co., 244th Engineering Battalion, (heavy combat) at the controls of the Corps vessel Hayward in the New York Harbor as the conning officer supervises. Photo: Vince Elias



Shining Stars



Commander's Awards 2007

- MICHAEL ROVI**
Commander's Leadership
- FREDERICK HAND**
Commander's Employee of the Year
- DAVID BROUWER**
Commander's Supervisor of the Year
- JAMES VALIANOS**
Commander's Professional of the Year
- STANLEY BLOOM**
Commander's Engineer of the Year
- REGINA FLYNN**
Commander's Engineer of the Year
- MAUREEN SMITH**
Commander's Administrator of the Year
- CHERYL MESA**
Commander's Program Assistant of the Year
- ANTHONY LAURIA**
Commander's Wage Grade Employee of the Year
- XIAOMING "MICHAEL" CHEN**
Commander's Team Leader of the Year
- MARK KUCERA**
Commander's Field Representative of the Year
- BHAVESH SHAH**
Commander's Outstanding Contribution
- JENNIFER ROJAS-GUIDON**
Commander's Outstanding Contribution
- SHAROYAH FERNANDEZ**
Commander's Outstanding Contribution
- TIFFANY PITTMAN**
Commander's Community Service

- Commander's Service to the Army Award 2007
- CHRISTINE DELORIER**
- STEVEN WEINBERG**
- JOHN PAVONE**
- CATHERINE SCOTT**
- BRYCE WISEMILLER**

New York City Water Supply Project Delivery Team 2007

- CHARLES ADAMS**
- NANCY BRIGHTON**
- BRYAN BURGE**
- JOHN CORCETTI**
- TERRY DEGLANDON**
- ANTHONY DEL VECCHIO**
- KALLY EASTMAN**
- PAUL FRANCO**
- BILL GOFF**
- FREDERICK HAND**
- JEFFREY HUBBARD**
- ALAN LINK**
- MATTHEW LUDWIG**
- SIBANI MALIK**
- THOMAS SESSA**
- JOSEPH SEEBODE**

Teamwork of the Year Awards

Fort Drum Military Construction Team

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| John Alaskewicz | Regina Flynn | Loretta Parris |
| Mark Alton | Renee George | Robert Philbrick |
| Paul Ancog | Robert Gerrits | Frederick Pike |
| Ben Baker | Brett Gorham | Jay Pratt |
| Freddy Bilbao | Raynette Gurney | David Rackmales |
| Silvia Belinaux | Scott Helmer | Larry Rosenkranz |
| Stanley Bloom | Michael Hogg | Claudio Sang |
| Jan Bovier | Thomas Holcomb | Thomas Sessa |
| David Brown | Thomas Hoss | Edward Sim |
| Antonio Castro | Patti Irvin | Eric Smith |
| Xiaoming Chen | Janetta Isberner | Ella Snell |
| Gennaro Cimmino | Mukesh Kumar | Anne Spiegelberg |
| David Chew | Chi Lau | John Steinbeck |
| John Chew | Richard Lavoie | Martin Tokos |
| George Colon | Janice Lauletta | Joseph Valade |
| Thomas Dannemann | Alfred Lin | James Valianos |
| Capt. William Davis | Alan Link | Daniel Ward |
| Ralph DeBari | Elena Manno | Key Whiting |
| George DeMarinis | Mark McKenna | Michael Wojcicki |
| Jose Diaz | Timothy Noble | John Wong |
| Sonia Diaz | Sean O'Donnell | |
| Barbara Dindi | | |
| Harry Donath | | |
| John Downing | | |
| Kally Eastman | | |
| Matthew Emigholz | | |
| Emily Eng | | |
| Phillip Favret | | |
| Anthony Felder | | |

Retirements



Peter Shugert retired in May following a 31-year career with the U.S. Government, and 20 years with New York District as Chief, Public Affairs. In the 1960s, he served on active duty with the Army in Vietnam. In 1977 he began his career as a public affairs specialist for the Military Traffic Management Command in Virginia. In 1982, he worked with the office of the Chief of Army Reserves at the Pentagon.

While with the District, Shugert served the general public and was command spokesman ensuring the public was informed of noteworthy events through the media. He received several awards for his contributions following 9/11, and was command liaison with government officials and the media following natural disasters, and prior to his retirement, he was instrumental in the media coverage of dredging operations to free the USS Intrepid museum to be towed. He was awarded the Corps' De Fluery Medal, presented by Brig. Todd T. Semonite, commander, North Atlantic Division. He also received an Intrepid memento and two coins from Bill White, president of the Intrepid Museum Foundation. His retirement plans include relaxing in Prince Edward Island, Canada and a doing consultant and volunteer work.

Milestones



Christopher J. Nastasi, P.E. was promoted in May from civil engineer to the resident engineer position at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J. Nastasi has been with New York District since 1989.

"He has considerable experience in MILCON, Civil Works, and Environmental HTRW contract management," said Col. Nello Tortora, commander, New York District. He is the recent recipient of the USACE/EPA National Award for Contract Management at the Brook Industrial Superfund Site in Bound Brook, N.J. At Picatinny Arsenal, Nastasi will lead the military construction management effort on a number of specialty Research and Development facilities.

New dorm and clinic improve QOL at Arctic airbase

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D., PPM

In 2006, a team of New York District experts traveled to Greenland's Thule Air Base in the Arctic to supervise ongoing construction of a dormitory and to inspect a recently completed medical clinic. These facilities were needed to replace old structures which were sub-standard, expensive to operate, or situated too far from base.

Since then, the clinic and dormitory are in full operation with great reviews received from base personnel and the Air Force commander.

Since the medical clinic opened its doors in January, over 1,787 patients have been treated. The clinic is a one-story, 20,450-square-foot building with complete medical services including a mortuary. It offers outpatient and inpatient, surgical services, and boasts environmentally-sound, state-of-the-art digital x-ray equipment that uses low radiation.

"The clinic provides urgent and preventive care for our diverse population of Americans, Danish, Greenlandic, and Canadian employees, ensuring we can continue to fulfill our critical missions despite our industrial-type work environment, the harsh arctic climate and conditions, and the deeply isolated location of Thule Air Base," said Col. Ed Fienga, commander, Air Force 821 Air Base Group.

"The state-of-the-art medical clinic is an invaluable community resource and has become Northwest Greenland's rightful place of choice for medical care," said Fienga.

The dormitory is a three-story building with 72 rooms for non-commissioned officers, situated in the center of the air base. Each floor has 4-bedroom modules with individual bathrooms, walk-in closets, housekeeping areas, a laundry room, and day room with a fully equipped kitchen including appliances.

Greenland is primarily composed of permafrost, which means permanently frozen ground

below the earth's surface from six feet, up to 1,600 feet at other spots. The buildings at Thule require elevated foundations with concrete support beams or air corridors keeping a clearance between the buildings and ground because heat generated from the buildings will melt the permafrost which could cause them to sink. Both the medical clinic and dormitory were built using this technology under a design/build contract by a Danish firm.

"The new dormitory immediately became the flagship of Thule's facility fleet," said Fienga.

"The dorm is well furnished and very comfortable," said Master Sgt. Richard Lane, an Air Force fuels quality assurance representative who resides in the dorm. "The Day Room is now a popular place for socializing and cooking meals."

It's much more than a dormitory. It is a community cornerstone enabling airmen to focus on their mission-critical jobs.

"The new dormitory, with its sharp attention to design and detail has improved morale, quality of life, and safety of personnel, conservation of energy, and the appearance of the Department of Defense's northernmost installation."



Thule Air Base residents relax in the Airmen's Day Room in the new dormitory.



Legislative assistants visit key Army Corps projects

Anthony Ciorra, chief, Civil Works Project Management Branch, New York District, and Douglas Leite, project manager, New York District, meet with new legislative assistants Tim Del Monico and Shawn Brennan of Rep. Frank Pallone's office at the Shark River Inlet, Belmar, N.J., part of the Corps Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet project.

In July they visited various key Corps projects in Pallone's congressional district in New Jersey and became familiar with flood reduction and shore protection work being performed by the Corps.

"Being able to see the affected areas gives our office a great understanding of the Army Corps process. It's also a great progress report on key projects in our district," said Del Monico. Photo: JoAnne Castagna

Corporate Challengers participate in annual Central Park run



In June, the New York District fielded a team of 22 runners and walkers to participate in the annual JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge 3.5 mile run in Central Park. The Corps participants, led by Col. Nello Tortora, district commander, represented PPMD, Logistics, Resource Management, Operations, Planning, Legal, Contracting, Safety, EEO, and the Fort Drum area office. "Col. Tortora represented the Corps well, placing 11th in the most senior executive category," said Patricia Donohue, District coordinator for the event. "Veteran runners, and new first-time participants competed with over 15,000 people from 470 companies in this increasingly popular sporting and social event."

Photo: Kevin Smyth

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



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