



# The New York District Times



In honor of lives lost

Winter 2001

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

## New York District responds to plane crash

By Vince Elias

It was Nov. 12, and only eight weeks since Corps vessels were taking emergency personnel to Manhattan and transporting stranded people from the city in the wake of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center when news broke about a plane crash near JFK Airport.

Brian Aballo, captain of the *Hayward*, saw plenty of action on Sept. 11 along with other crewmembers from Caven Point, N.J.

Aballo was enjoying the Veterans Day holiday when he heard the news that a commercial airplane had crashed into a residential neighborhood in Queens, a suburban neighborhood in a New York City borough near JFK Airport.

The Corps' New York District fleet of vessels once again were called into action. In less than two hours the vessels *Driftmaster*, *Dobrin*, *Gelberman* and *Hayward* left their docks at Caven Point, and were at full speed enroute to the site of New York City's latest catastrophe.

Aballo said the *Dobrin* was used to pick up *Hayward* crewmembers and take them to their vessel. Road transportation was hindered because the city closed all bridges and tunnels.

Aballo and *Hayward* crewmembers Rich Gaudreau, Walter Grauling, Dan Petrie, Tom Scott, Bill Carl, and Harbor Programs Manager Joe Sebode headed for Jamaica Bay, where sections of the airplane had been discovered floating in the water by NYPD harbor patrol crews and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Continued on pg. 3



Photo: New York District

Wreckage of AA flight 587. Tail section of American Airlines airbus A300 is hoisted to the pier by the *Hayward* from Jamaica Bay.

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**Inside ...**



**Page 5**



**Page 7**



### The New York District Times

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**Commander and  
District Engineer  
Col. John B. O'Dowd**

**Chief, Public Affairs  
Peter H. Shugert**

[peter.h.shugert@usace.army.mil](mailto:peter.h.shugert@usace.army.mil)

**Editor, Layout & Graphic  
Design  
Vince Elias**

[vincent.elias@usace.army.mil](mailto:vincent.elias@usace.army.mil)

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

## Commander's Corner

It has been an eventful year for New York District. It's been a year filled with the challenges of meeting our customers' needs and expectations, and it's been a time of responding to unexpected and unspeakable tragedy.

The world has seen the Corps' response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Some of you were directly involved in rescue and evacuation efforts. Many of you were directly involved in the assistance the Corps provided to FEMA and New York City. Perhaps you found yourself working on vital year-end financial or contracting or project issues at alternate work sites to ensure the District kept going. All of you can be proud of how the Corps and New York District performed after the attacks.

In spite of what happened Sept. 11 and what is still happening at the World Trade Center site, business continues for New York District.

In our Military Program, you have met the challenges of the Arvin and Kimsey projects at West Point and new work planned for McGuire Air Force Base. Our Civil Works teams are continuing excellent work on high visibility projects such as harbor deepening, Green Brook and shore protection. Our Environmental Program continues to grow, and the FUSRAP team continues to shine both in cleanup and as an example of great teamwork with sister districts.

We have worked for you, too. We have expanded our TransitChek program to help with your mass transportation costs. Our initiatives on training, upward mobility, mentoring and awards, and redesigning our work spaces are just some of the ways we're investing in you – you make New York District run.

As we look back on a full 2001 and toward the challenges of 2002, take the time to share the joys of the holiday season with your co-workers, your families and your loved ones. You deserve the best, because you are the best.

*Essayons!*



**Col. John B. O'Dowd**  
District Engineer

(District Responds continued from Pg.1)

“It was good having Joe Seebode aboard the *Hayward*, because he knew many of the people from the emergency agencies,” said Aballo.

Once the *Hayward* arrived in the choppy waters of Jamaica Bay, the crew saw that the police department harbor patrol craft had the tail section of the airplane harnessed and in tow. The current was so strong that it was difficult to handle. In coordination with the police, the *Hayward* was carefully maneuvered by her experienced crew and took the tow line which they connected to the floating tail section of the airplane.

“The *Hayward* crew took the tow line and put it on *Hayward*’s crane, holding it away a safe distance from the skin of the boat keeping it from any damage,” said Aballo. “The section of the aircraft was floating in 25 feet of water.”

It took less than an hour. The *Hayward* crew towed the tail section to the city’s Department of Environmental Protection pier beach channel at 108<sup>th</sup> Street, less than two dozen blocks from the major impact area of the aircraft. The *Hayward* lifted the tail section with her huge crane and placed it on a flatbed truck on the pier for examination by investigators.

In the summer of 1997 the Corps vessel *Hudson* was extensively involved in the recovery operations of TWA Flight 800 which crashed off of Long Island.

It was only four months ago that the vessels from New York District were recovering a record number of dead whales from the waters of the metropolitan area.

*Hayward*’s versatility is demonstrated by her ability to hoist huge obstructions to water navigation.

The 124-foot *Hayward* is equipped with a hydraulic crane rated at 20 tons with an 80-foot outreach. The *Hayward*’s primary function is removing floating debris by snagging large logs, wreckage, barges, and other obstructions from the waterways. The *Hayward* tows a catamaran barge with a drift net to pick up flotsam and jetsam.



The *Hayward*’s crane holds the tail section a safe distance from the boat.

The *Hayward* lifted the tail section with her huge crane and placed it on a flatbed truck on the pier. It was hauled to Floyd Bennett Field for examination by investigators.



# District pulls together in face of challenges

By Vince Elias

In the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center, the Corps of Engineers deployed over 140 personnel to New York City from around the nation to support recovery efforts, including support teams for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Structural experts and surveyors from across the nation were on site to assist the city in complicated building assessments and safety issues. A debris management cell of contract personnel was also on site to provide technical assistance to the city.

New York District people immediately involved in work development and execution included Maj. Joseph Snodgrass, Mike Ganley, and John Tavolaro, along with others who deployed to the FEMA activation site in Edison, N.J. The Corps initiated an emergency support function no.3 cell and interfaced with FEMA engineers. The Corps' involvement was dictated by ongoing circumstances. The ESF3 is part of the federal response plan and falls under public works and engineering in which the Corps is a player.

Maj Kally Eastman of New York District's West Point Area Office extended invitations to Corps structures specialists and other teams where she thought they'd be valuable participants.

"We coordinated, received and deployed the USACE resources that were being sent," said Eastman.

After the first four days, and once the ESF3 cell was staffed with trained USACE personnel, Eastman remained in the cell as the liaison for North Atlantic Division and New York District.

While there, she assisted in the development of requirements, funds assignments and mission taskers. Eastman was able to draw on local resources, per-

sonnel and specific knowledge to facilitate the ESF3 mission accomplishment.

Working with each of the ESF3 missions, including debris assessment, urban search and rescue, and dredging, Eastman worked closely with Joe Seebode and Steve Browning to provide coordination, information and access.

Eastman was also pivotal by conducting technical meetings — some which evolved into solid information exchanges that led to great benefits. The coordination in the meetings yielded critical information to the overall recovery effort.

In some cases, the synergy of different backgrounds working together effective problem solving, including unanticipated benefits. Attending meetings on emergency mapping, for example, contributed to the success of creating mapping strategies not only for this recovery effort but for future disaster preparedness.



Photo: F. T. Eyre, HQ USACE

Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers gets briefed by Mike Beard of Louisville District and Maj. Kally Eastman at the FEMA operations center at Pier 90 in Manhattan.



Editor's note: It was our desire to produce an issue commemorating the District's World Trade Center attack response. We tried to touch every office. As often happens in these things, we missed some folks who did outstanding work. They and their friends were quick to tell us and their interest is appreciated. The intent is to chronicle the events that transpired and to share with our readers individuals who were specifically involved including challenges faced relating to this disaster.

# The PDT: An opportunity for synergy

By JoAnne Castagna

One of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's most critical and complex projects, the Federal Creosote Superfund Site in Manville, N.J., is being constructed by a Corps inter-district project delivery team and proving to be a prime example of synergy at work.

In 1996, a Claremont development resident in Manville reported seeing a black oil-like substance discharging from their basement's sump pump onto a local street. The following year another Claremont resident, living on the other side of the development, saw the same substance in soil surrounding a sink-hole near a storm sewer pipe on their property.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection promptly investigated these reports. In 1997, a consultant for the Borough of Manville found that this mysterious substance is polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon or creosote, a preservative used to treat wood, such as railroad ties and telephone poles. The development's soil contained high levels of this substance, a probable human carcinogen.

The 50-acre Claremont development is a highly developed residential and commercial community located on the property of the former American/Federal Creosote Wood Treatment Facility. After 50 years of business, the creosote facility was closed in the late 1950s. Portions of the former facility property were developed into commercial and retail property that includes the Rustic Mall and for 137 single-family homes.

The creosote facility included several large buildings, and two lagoons and canals used to collect the creosote-contaminated sludge and process residuals.

Before the Claremont development was built, the wood treatment facility was removed, but the canals and lagoons, containing creosote sludge, were only covered with a few feet of soil. According to Michael Scarano, USACE/EPA Region II business manager, North Atlantic Division, "In the 1960s there were no regulations in place to monitor the waste or prevent construction of the development."

"This was often the normal practice that industry would use for the closure of an industrial site during the 1960s and before the Claremont community was created," said Eugene Urbanik, resident engineer, N.J. area office.

In 1997, citing the potential magnitude of this problem and the need for immediate response that would require resources beyond the NJDEP's capabilities, the state agency requested assistance from Region II which took on responsibility for the investigation. After the EPA conducted over 100 surface and subsurface soil borings of the Claremont development and surrounding properties, the agency discovered that the canals and lagoons still existed and that 19 residential properties had subsurface areas containing elevated levels of creosote. The EPA reported that the contamination is extensive, uncontrolled and has impacted sediment, soil and groundwater in the area, posing health risks to current and future residents.

Health risks can occur if residents have skin exposure to the contaminated sludge and soil, if they inhale indoor air that contains volatile components of creosote, or if they drink or wash with water that comes from contaminated groundwater.

The EPA found that the canal and lagoon areas are the major sources of soil and groundwater contamination in the development. The agency decided that the area needed to be remediated. EPA's remedial action called for excavation of the contaminated material in the lagoons and canals, with off-site treatment and disposal. This action required the buyout and demolition of 17 residential dwellings.

EPA requested the support of the Corps in 2000. "The success of this critical project was essential to the EPA Region II," Scarano said. "My job is to provide the EPA with the best possible Corps resources without regard to district or division boundaries. The size and nature of this project provided an opportunity for an inter-district team to better execute the work."

continued on next page



Federal Creosote Team. (l-r) JoAnne Castagna, Neal Kolb, Michael Scarano, Gene Urbanik, Rich Puvogel, Rich Gajdek, Matthew Ludwig, Brian Duffy. (Not pictured: Todd Daniels, Christine Milligan and Mark Herse.)

## PDT synergy (cont'd from pg. 5)

Scarano assembled a project delivery team including Corps specialists from five districts and two divisions. Scarano consulted with key members of the New York, Philadelphia, Omaha, Baltimore, and Kansas City Districts. After working 'synergistically' with the team, taking into account the needs and desires of both the EPA and the Corps, Region II accepted a proposal for an inter-district team.

Each district plays a role on this virtual team. New York District is leading the remedial action phase with the assistance of the Philadelphia District. Omaha District is contributing its expertise in managing cost-plus contracts. Baltimore District is handling key real estate services. Kansas District is in charge of remedial design and technical assistance.

The Remedial Action Phase began in the fall of 2000, focusing on remediation of the lagoons and canals.

One of the two lagoons, lagoon B, is being remediated. This included demolition and removal of nine homes, asbestos abatement, capping and relocation of utilities, backfill and cover of basements, removal of trees and bushes, installation of chain-link fence, and the establishment of 24-hour site security.

According to Urbanik, current work activities include building a soldier pile and lagging retaining system to support the side wall of the lagoon B excavation. Additional work includes a dewatering operation that removes groundwater from the work site so that the workers can work on dry soil; a wastewater treatment plant that removes creosote from the groundwater and the excavation and transportation of the creosote contaminated material to disposal facilities. The creosote waste is being disposed at different locations depending on its level of contamination.

Kansas City District is maintaining an aggressive investigation and design schedule that meets the overall requirements of the project.

Mentoring contractors on cost reimbursement issues is the role of the Omaha District's Rapid Response Program Office, a Corps Center of Expertise.

The Corps needed to acquire residential properties to complete the remediation. In this case, a total of 17 homes for cleanup and relocating residents was necessary.

"Residents that must relocate permanently were able to find homes comparable to those they lived in near the site. The team is providing necessary relocations and buyouts with all expenses paid by the government," said Scarano. For residents living in and near the Claremont development area, extensive procedures are in place to protect their health.

The Corps and the EPA Region II have received praise for their execution of the remedial action plan by members of Congress as well as by local officials and residents, according to Neal Kolb, team leader and lead project engineer for New York District. "One representative expressed his satisfaction with the progress made to date," said Richard Puvogel, remedial project manager for EPA Region II.

On a project of this scope and complexity, combined with a long-standing relationship with the technical expertise and extensive contracting mechanisms of the Kansas City District, the support from Baltimore and the home-grown experience of both New York and Philadelphia districts, the full experience and talents of these great districts can be brought together to effect a successful project.

The Corps' primary customer, EPA Region II, is considered an important component of the team. "The Corps and the EPA have an excellent, collaborative relationship on this project. For the most part, the rapport is that of sister agencies rather than a client/employer relationship. Of course, the Corps' is mindful of its role as a supporter on behalf of the EPA," said Scarano.

The project when completed will include several additional remediation phases. Lagoon B remediation is expected to be completed by July 2002. Remediation of Lagoon A will include the demolition and removal of eight homes, asbestos abatement, capping and relocating of utilities, backfill and cover of basements, removal of trees and bushes, installation of a chain-link fence and excavation of both canals A and B. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2006.

Even though there is further remediation to be completed, team members say synergy is the key to their success so far. "Synergy is the combination of ideas from many different team members toward a solution that is better than any individual idea. The project delivery team is an opportunity for synergy. This is the first project of its size and complexity that made successful use of team members from five Corps districts and two Corps divisions – a true example of One Door to the Corps success," concluded Scarano.

Remediation and excavation at Lagoon B.





# News Desk

## Senior leaders visit New York District Secretary Izzo observes District projects



Dominic Izzo, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) visited New York District in November. Izzo received a tour of New York District's harbor projects and received briefings on the deepening study.

As Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Izzo assists in the management and oversight of the nation's civil works projects, which include navigation, flood control, ports and harbors, and environmental projects accomplished by the Corps.



Joe Seebode of Harbor Programs manager, discusses the navigation project progress as Secretary Izzo and Col. O'Dowd look on.

## Maj. Gen. Van Winkle tours ground zero



Randy Hintz of emergency operations accompanied Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Hans Van Winkle at Ground Zero. Maj. Gen. Van Winkle is the Deputy Commander, Corps of Engineers. They observed slurry walls being tied back and debris being removed from the collapsed twin towers of the World Trade Center.



Maj. Gen. Van Winkle (right) and Joel Miele, Commissioner, N.Y.C. DEP observe the devastation and ongoing monumental task of debris removal at ground zero.

## WTC response team praised for work at ground zero

The World Trade Center Response Team displays District gold coins presented by Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer. The team received the coins just after the transition from Pier 90 on Manhattan's west side to the permanent home base in downtown Manhattan. "Support personnel from NAP and NAE returned to their home stations," said Randy Hintz of the District's emergency operations center.

Hintz and Joe Forcina of New York District were cited for taking the lead and for returning operations to the operating base downtown.



World Trade Center Response Team. (l-r) Joe Forcina (NAN), William Bailey (NAP), Bob DeSista (NAE), Col. O'Dowd, Amanda Muscavage (NAP), and Randy Hintz (NAN).

## AKO on-line registration required

Guidance was issued in August by the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff on the Army Knowledge Management vision. One specific directive is that all Army civilian employees register for an account through the internet enterprise integrated AKO portal.

Full accounts are authorized for all Army personnel (Active, Guard, Reserve, Retired, and DA Civilians). Contractors, local, national, and NAF employees supporting Army missions can be sponsored by an authorized account holder to receive a guest account.

AKO is evolving and provides a capability to move the Army toward a network-centric, knowledge-based force. In summary, you will become PORTAL CENTRIC to conduct your business, whether it is collaboration, e-mail, or data and information access.

Specific instructions for registering are located on the AKO site at: [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil), Career Management, Quick Link: "Army knowledge On-Line"



### Individual AKO accounts will provide the following capabilities:

- Universal e-mail address scheme.
- Army-wide directory service through the ability to automatically forward AKO mail to your primary unit e-mail address. (This allows you to retain a single e-mail address throughout your career and

### provides the Army with a global directory from which information can be disseminated.

- Several powerful search engines.
- Access to over 2,700 web page links.
- Access to various Army Knowledge Center and functional pages (depending on privileges).

### Future capabilities:

- Secure instant messaging and chat.
- News feeds.
- New, improved white pages.

- Content management of functional pages by the functional proponent.
- A directory of and access to all Army personnel.
- Portal of portals.
- Rich web e-mail.
- Personalized (individual and unit) information access.
- Enterprise and functional information collaboration and access.
- Group calendaring.



# Fair winds and following seas

Robert W. Hyatt, chief of Real Estate for the past three years retired in November after a stellar 34 year career with the U.S. Government.

## Robert Hyatt

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### Real Estate



He began his career as a land surveyor for the Air Force during the Vietnam War. Continuing his education, Robert Hyatt became recognized as a designated appraiser and negotiator.

He brought with him to New York a working knowledge from the Army Corps' Norfolk District and the Seventh Army, Heidelberg, Germany. With his vast experience, Hyatt oversaw the instruction of generations of Federal realty specialists at the Corps' prospect training courses. His lasting contribution is evident in the quality of work of his former students who provide acquisition and negotiation skills across the nation.



## Ray Boc

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### Engineering

Ray Boc, assistant chief, PRB and SS Branch of Engineering, retired in December after 35 years of distinguished service entirely with New York District.

Boc began his career in June 1964 as a JET in the Construction Division for six months. He then worked in Engineering for a few months before returning to the Construction Division in Greenland at the Thule Air Force Base. He worked in the Operations Division in the Survey Branch before returning to the Engineering Division where he spent the next five years.

In 1970, Boc completed drafts of advance planning, and the design of waterways in the Design Memorandum Section of Engineering. In 1972 he worked in the special studies branch of the Planning Division, where he oversaw the N.Y. metropolitan northeastern U.S. water supply study referred to as NEWS. He worked on the interdisciplinary team and conducted a feasibility level study of plan alternatives for the water supply. He performed data collection, technical assignments in hydrology, managed and reviewed contracts for groundwater, pumping stations, tunnels, interconnections and diversions.

In 1974, Ray joined the Passaic River and Special Studies Branch of Planning. For three years, he worked as the technical leader responsible for the engineering aspects of NEWS. Specifically, he performed a hydrologic simulation of the Hudson River Basin and the New York City water supply system and coordinated with other cities and states providing technical information.

For several years Boc completed his work on the NEWS and became involved in the Oakland and Saddle Rivers, Molly Ann's Brooks, and Mahwah-Suffern studies in the Passaic Basin. He supervised over two dozen professionals and was responsible for project recommendations. He subsequently became acting chief of the Passaic River Division and oversaw the Newark Streambank Restoration project until 1994 and then simultaneously assumed the role as the chief technical engineer for the engineering and design of the Passaic River flood protection project.

"I have grown tremendously through my years with the Corps and have succeeded only because of the support and friendship you have all given to me. I look forward to my retirement with great enthusiasm," said Boc.

# Structural pros go above and below ground zero

By Vince Elias

Mark Wingate of the Readiness Support Center, San Francisco District, deployed to Ground Zero in September in response to a request to support the FEMA USAR Task Force mission. Wingate was one of several Corps Urban Search and Rescue structures specialist cadre members dispatched from districts around the nation to help out at the disaster site in lower Manhattan.

Wingate used his structural collapse experience working out of the Corps' NYC Emergency Operations Center and with New York City's foundation engineer consultants on maintaining maps of compromised basement floors below the trade center.

"The bulk of our work included subterranean collapse mapping of the World Trade Center, and structural evaluations/safety oversight during inspections of foundations, buildings that sustained collateral damage, and subway systems," said Wingate.

Efforts involved close coordination with a myriad of agencies including the Department of Design and Construction structural engineers of New York City, and FEMA urban search and rescue task forces.

A critical engineering challenge in the wake of the attacks was dealing with subterranean debris removal while maintaining stability of the cutoff wall (the "slurry" wall, a 70-foot high wall erected below grade to keep the Hudson River out of the Trade Center).

According to Wingate, several events such as inspections of the slurry wall foundation punctuated the success of the mission. "Interagency meetings and inspections of slurry wall foundation helped to allay concerns of public and interfacing agencies," he said.

ing routine inspections, de-watering, and re-establishing tiebacks into bedrock.

Participating in information exchanges between FEMA USAR structural leads, combat engineers, and iron workers facilitated the use of improved technology such as using a magnesium-copper consumable rod for apportioning the Trade Center Towers heavy-steel exterior wall lattice.

"Corps involvement also led to garnering generators from combat engineers for the FEMA urban search and rescue caches," he said.

Continued on next page



Collateral damage to the American Express Building resulted from flying debris, particularly from an estimated 20-25 ton exterior wall "lattice" section (referred to as "the spear"), which was projected from one of the WTC towers through the southeast corner of the building.

Mark Wingate assesses temporary rigging of "spear" projectile in the American Express building.

**Structural Pros**

(continued from Pg. 10)

District experts also provided safety oversight during subterranean inspections at the north projection slurry wall, the Marriott Hotel/slurry wall, and the no. 1 and 9 subway train tunnel. Thermal imagery maps of the collapsed area were appreciated by the New York City Fire Department.

“After the subway inspection I made one last iteration to our subterranean collapse maps and delivered a set to the Duane Street fire station ... when John Norman (the Fire Department battalion chief of special operations) found out I was leaving, he shook my hand and said, ‘we couldn’t have done the mission without the Corps...’ For me, in the wake of FDNY expressing they didn’t want outside help, that was a real testimony to our contribution to the USAR structures mission.”



Photos: Mark Wingate

Structural experts observe the damage in the subway tunnel beneath ground zero.



Inside the subway train tunnel, Randy Hintz of Emergency Operations observes the huge amount of structural damage underneath the World Trade Center site. Collapsed building columns from the skyscrapers penetrated the subway tunnel beneath the ground.



Inspectors examine the damage in the subway tunnel below the World Trade Center.

## Farewell



Bill Tully (left) of PPMD Military Programs was honored in December by New York District prior to his transfer to Baltimore District. Tully received the Commander's Achievement Medal for his outstanding work while at New York District. It was presented by Tony Levesanos, Deputy Chief, PPMD.

## Tidbits

By Mary Stavina



## Did you know?

The first executive director of the New Jersey Turnpike was a retired career officer from the Army Corps of Engineers, General W. W. Wanamaker who served in World War II. After being appointed in 1948 not surprisingly he patterned the Turnpike after the Army.

The career path set up for the collectors started at the bottom with rank of collector, or in effect private. From there, one could go up in the ranks, to sergeant, lieutenant and captain. Honesty and efficiency were emphasized.



## Stork Club

It's a boy!

Matt Walsh of Construction Division and wife Susan are the proud parents of a son, Shane Matthew Walsh born Nov. 17. Vital Stats: 7 lbs., 12 oz., and 19" long.



## Safety and Security

Be watchful at all times. If you observe any suspicious behavior or activity, report it to security, and while in the street to local law enforcement officials. All personnel who are scheduled to travel overseas on TDY/PCS are reminded of the requirements that you must obtain a country clearance, health briefing, and updated anti-terrorist briefing. Contact the Security Office immediately upon being notified that you may be going OCONUS. Country clearances need to be submitted 30 days in advance.



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Jacob K. Javits Building

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