



The New York District Times

9/11/01
In honor of
lives lost



Fall 2002

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

Seebode named 'Civilian of the Year'

Joseph J. Seebode, Chief of Harbor Programs received the USACE Civilian of the Year Award at an August ceremony held in Orlando, Fla. Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, presented the award to Seebode.

Seebode received the award from among 35,000 Corps-wide civilian employees. He was cited for his outstanding service to the nation immediately following the attack on New York City by terrorists September 11, 2001, that resulted in the destruction of the World Trade Center.

Seebode, an environmental engineer, has over 21 years of experience with the Corps. He currently directs the critical engineering and construction effort to deepen the Port of New York to 50 feet. He is also simultaneously managing the development and execution of a comprehensive environmental restoration strategy for the New York and New Jersey harbor estuary.

Prior to this assignment, Seebode managed the Corps Regulatory Program in the New York District for 13 years.

Following the terrorist attacks on New York City, Seebode was designated the official Corps liaison to New York City, working with city, state and federal officials on a number of efforts to expedite rescue and recovery operations.



Joseph J. Seebode
USACE Civilian of the Year

Working very long hours for several weeks, he coordinated with various agencies on opportunities where Corps' expertise was available to support the rescue and recovery mission. This included topographic and bathymetric survey activities, structural engineering support, debris removal, and dredging and dredged material disposal.

Seebode managed the necessary logistics and emergency permits to expedite dredging in the Hudson and East Rivers to create the water depths necessary to accommodate barges taking debris and structural steel from the World Trade Center site to the Staten Island landfill and recycling facilities.

Many of the Corps efforts, as well as those of other agencies involved in rescue and recovery operations was aired in a History Channel documentary on the World Trade Center tragedy in which Seebode was interviewed.

Seebode remains proud of the USACE response to the tragedy. "Within a few days of Sept. 11, 2001, we had well over a hundred USACE experts here in New York working on rescue and recovery operations. Our people showed the true meaning of esprit de corps, and I am proud of our response and our efforts in a time when the nation needed us most."



Inside ... A Day on the Dock
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US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New York District



9/11/01 in retrospect

Looking back at our worst day and finest hour

On Sept. 11, 2001, America witnessed an act of terror such as we have never seen before. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responded immediately to the disaster.

It was almost impossible to get in or out of downtown Manhattan. There was an enormous amount of smoldering debris in a relatively small geographic location (310 stories of buildings in a 12 square block area).

A fleet of boats, including several from New York District, crossed the New York Harbor and Hudson River and transported hundreds of people out of the dangerous Red Zone. The Corps' boat crews shuttled about 3,000 stranded citizens, some injured, from Manhattan. On the return journeys, the crews transported emergency personnel into Manhattan.

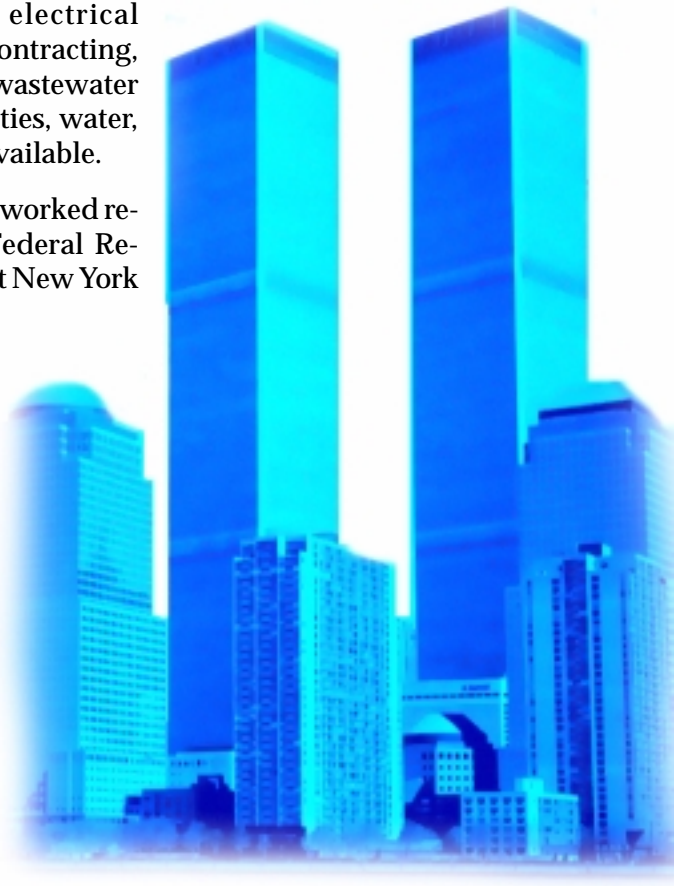
A team from the New England District deployed Sept. 12 to New York City to support the federal recovery effort after terrorist attacks in New York City.

The Corps drew on the full resources of its eight divisions, 41 districts, labs, and centers to perform its mission. Corps expertise in debris removal, structural analysis, urban search and rescue, emergency electrical power, emergency contracting, emergency repair of wastewater and solid waste facilities, water, and ice were made available.

Corps people worked relentlessly with the Federal Response Teams to assist New York City. Corps debris removal experts helped develop debris removal plans.

The Corps also mobilized two deployable tactical operations centers to the New York City Fire Department for command and control purposes.

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(9/11/01 cont'd from page 2)

The fire department's tactical and communication vehicles were destroyed when the towers collapsed. Deployed were two Corps Rapid Response Vehicles which are self-contained mobile command-and-control centers packed with communications and computer gear. FEMA and the Corps used the DTOCs and RRVs to form a linked communications network around the area of destruction in New York City.

Operations supplied fireboat and fire truck crews with fuel, food, and water that enabled rescue and firefighting personnel to remain on station.

Over 140 Corps personnel deployed to New York City from around the nation to support the recovery efforts, including support teams for FEMA.

New York District was immediately involved in work development and execution as many others deployed to the FEMA activation site. The Corps initiated an emergency support function cell and interfaced with FEMA. The cell was part of the federal response plan under Public Works and Engineering.

After the attack, a small army of people and machines were at Ground Zero. Over 1,000 workers, 240 trucks, 70 barges, and 260 pieces of heavy equipment removed debris around the clock.

Dredging was necessary in the Hudson River to accommodate the barges. In less than two days, the dredging began.

The 249th Engineer Battalion, Prime Power deployed 31 personnel to New York City. The city's main utilities company asked these soldiers to help install 50 1,500-kilowatt generators supplied by the city. They were used to power medical triage facilities and transient housing.

On Sept. 17 a team of nine ConEd electrical utility personnel augmented by five 249th soldiers installed two generators in lower Manhattan and provided power for buildings in the city's civic center and financial district.

The city and FEMA used the Corps' Geographic Information System maps and information for various purposes. GIS experts created computer-generated maps. The images showed buried fires and dangerous hot spots where the World Trade Center towers once stood.

Initially, there was over one hundred Corps employees assisting FEMA and the city. A total of 209 people were in-processed and 97 were out-processed by the Division Forward Office administrative staff. As the mis-

**Ground Zero
Sept. 2001**

sions changed and people moved in and out of the operation, these numbers changed daily.

Corps structures specialists helped the urban search and rescue teams search for any survivors buried beneath the debris. While firemen and police sifted through the mountain of wreckage, Corps structures specialists monitored hazards and performed safety analyses to mitigate the hazards associated with the search and rescue operations.

One of the most challenging missions to surface was removing an estimated 1.2 million tons of building debris from the complex. This is one area the expertise of the Corps was tapped immediately. FEMA and New York City sought out the Corps for its experience in debris management gained from years of disaster recovery missions.

FEMA assigned the debris removal mission Oct. 1 to the Corps to operate the Staten Island landfill to dispose of World Trade Center debris. The mission partners included FEMA and New York City. Under the mission, the firm of Phillips and Jordon, Inc., managed contractors working at the landfill. Neither the Corps nor P&J managed the landfill. The Department of Sanitation and the New York Police Department worked at the landfill raking, sorting, and searching for evidence.

The debris was mainly structural and not the trees and residential debris from natural disasters normally faced by the Corps. All structural steel debris went to two salvage yards for recycling. The rest was transported to the landfill site.

Debris crews worked around the clock removing about 10,000 tons a day. One aspect was that the debris was part of a crime scene and contained both evidence and human remains.

The 10-month effort at the Staten Island landfill ended July 15 as hundreds assembled at the closing ceremony. After the landfill closed, New York District continued disassembling some of the facilities.



Civil works Update



By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD

Corps repairs 70-year old dam

In 1935, the Corps oversaw the construction of the Waterbury Dam in Vermont built in response to a flooding disaster in 1927. Seventy years later, a Corps multi-district project delivery team is underway making necessary restorations to the dam located on the Little River in the Winooski River Basin in the town of Waterbury.

In August a restoration groundbreaking took place. "I have the highest regards for the Corps. The work they do for the country is phenomenal," said Vermont Sen. James Jeffords.

"The Corps' first civil works projects were in Vermont on Lake Champlain," said Col. John O'Dowd, District Engineer. "Beginning in 1935 and ending in 1938, the Waterbury Dam was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps under the supervision of the Corps. The Corps has worked on the dam twice since then."

According to Doug Leite, project manager, in the late 1990s, the Corps conducted tests on the dam. "Part of the dam sits on the old river gorge that may have settled, possibly creating voids in the dam," said Leite. "Excess seepage in the dam could erode the dam internally."

The repairs to the dam began in July and the project is expected to be completed in Fall 2004. RAITO Inc., a contractor from San Leandro, Calif. will perform three years of repairs. J.A. McDonald, a Vermont subcontractor is excavating a downstream section of the dam so that filter stone can be placed around the discharge pipe that runs through the center of the dam.

Preserving the environment has been a top priority. The mitigation for the drawdown of the reservoir will be a bio-engineered shoreline stabilization project.



Bulldozers excavate along the toe of the dam as backfill placement is also necessary at the shell zone following placement of filler material.

District preserves QOL at Broadstreet Hollow

The Broadstreet Hollow Stream Project is an Army Corps project where restoration is used to preserve the quality of life and the natural habitat. Today, 9 million New Yorkers are using safe water as a result. The Broadstreet Hollow Stream is a tributary of the Espous Creek, which is the primary river running into the Ashokan Reservoir. It is one of 31 projects being accomplished under the New York City Watershed Environmental Assistance Program.

"All of these projects are ongoing except for Broadstreet, which was completed in November 2000," said Douglas Leite, project manager, New York District. "It may be completed, but the successful work accomplished on the project has left a lasting impression on the community that has experienced flooding problems over the years."



Douglas Leite, project manager observes the Broadstreet Hollow Stream.

District projects transform military communities

The Spicer Village Military Family Housing project at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., was opened in August and marked a significant improvement for the quality of life for military families living in the area.



The new housing units (below) replace pre-World War II housing units (left).

The new houses replace pre-World War II housing units. Families have already begun moving into their new residences. The housing consists of 14 3-bedroom, and 13 4-bedroom homes, and 2 three-bedroom handicap homes. The homes are equipped with multiple bathrooms, garages, and have modern conveniences including: microwaves, dishwashers, laundry rooms, and central heating and air conditioning.



“Surrounding the area is a water park that was completed in 2000, and a newly renovated community center and children’s park, all of which were designed within the Corps of Engineers and constructed by New York District,” said Kathy Postol, project engineer at the Picatinny resident office.

Postol worked closely with the construction contractor, Integrated Construction Enterprise, Inc., and ensured the Army received a quality project in a timely manner. “Progress meetings were conducted with Corps, the contractor and the customer to address concerns relating to the project, resolve them and keep the project on track,” said Postol.



Upstate lodging facility to accommodate official government travelers



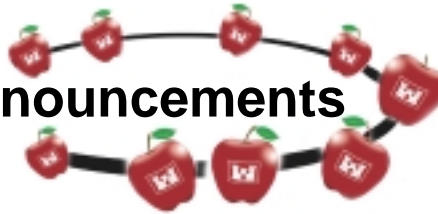
Elected officials and military dignitaries assembled at the ribbon cutting ceremony held in the lobby of the new 32,000-square foot visiting officers quarters.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in August to officially open the much-anticipated Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Center visiting officer quarters. The project was one of 11 major construction projects for the Air Force Reserve Command.

Rep. John LaFalce cut the ceremonial ribbon in the lobby of the new 32,000-square foot building. Lt. Col. Fagan, Louisville District Deputy Commander; Mike Goodman, PPMO; and Dominick Passantino and Joseph Salvatore of New York District also attended the event.

The former visiting officers quarters at Niagara Falls AFRC had significantly deteriorated, forcing visiting personnel to use off-base lodging accommodations. The visiting officers quarters is used extensively by military officers as well as other Defense Department personnel in conjunction with their training at Niagara Falls. A two-story, 60-room lodging facility replaces a visiting officers quarters structure built in 1952.

Awards, accolades, announcements



George Bucuta, PPMD

James Cronin, OP

Anthony delVecchio, PPMD

Heather Durr, CO

Caryl Forte, PPMD

Pablo Colon-Garay, CO

Donald hale, CO

Scott Helmer, CT

Wanda Santos, CT

David Seng, OP

Fall Farewells



Maj. Kris Urbauer, EOC

Cpt. Keith Taylor, CT



Cpt. Taylor added another milestone to his career by passing the certified associate contracts managers (CACM) exam prior to his transfer from New York District.

Odile Accilien, EN

Joann Ellison, PPMD

Gordon Orlow, RE

Michael Rogalski, PPMD

Douglas Sommer, PPMD

Yvonne Spraggins, PPMD

Milestones



Gary Kehoe, Chief of Security at NAD received the USACE Superior Security Manager of the Year Award, 2002.

Ella Snell, Chief of Contracting passed the certified associate contracts managers exam.

Eighty-one candidates out of 127 passed the exam.



Joseph Forcina, PPMD received a certificate for completion of the Army Leadership Development Program



Peter Shugert, Chief, PA was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for his contributions as a member of the NAD PA team for the Delaware River deepening project.



Environmentalists meet with the Corps to observe projects



New York District recently hosted a group of local environmentalists aboard the Corps vessel *Hocking* who were interested in observing ongoing projects in New York Harbor. Col. John O'Dowd, District Engineer and Joseph Seebode, Chief of Harbor Programs addressed questions while underway in the Harbor.

District environmental programs are associated with existing projects, new projects, administration of environmental regulations, and support to other agencies.

The number and scope of environmental programs and projects performed by the Corps are many.

Being an action-oriented organization, New York District has had its share of projects which have been controversial because of their environmental consequences. At the same time, when action is needed in order to protect or restore the environment, Congress and other Federal agencies have looked to the Corps to get the job done.



Photos: Peter Shugert

Corps biologists and students meet with a common interest

Corps biologist Heidi Firstencel of the Albany Field Office was an active participant in water ecology workshop recently held in upstate N.Y. for young school children.

Students had the opportunity to visit wetlands and streams in upstate New York during the session. The session was sponsored by the Heldeberg workshop, a not-for-profit organization chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York at Albany.

“Activities included identifying vertebrate and invertebrate inhabitants, and using the findings to indicate water quality,” said Firstencel. “The students also learned that the Corps has an important role in protecting the nation’s water resources.”



Photo: Caleigh O'Brien

Dredges clean up Superfund site

By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD

If you take a drive 410 miles north from New York City, and go west from Plattsburg, you will reach the “elbow” on the Canadian border, where the beautiful St. Lawrence River runs and where sits one of the Environmental Protection Agency’s critical environmental clean up projects - the Reynolds Metals Superfund Site in Massena, N.Y.

The site is the Reynolds Facility that used to be owned by the Reynolds Aluminum Wrap Co., and is now operated by Alcoa Aluminum. But it is still called the “Reynolds” plant. The facility has been an aluminum fabricating plant since 1958. During the 1980s the EPA discovered that various types of industrial waste, including polychlorinated biphenyls, were being discharged into the St. Lawrence River.

The river bed needed to be dredged and capped, otherwise it would pose an environmental and public health risk to surrounding businesses and communities, including the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Reservation, just one mile down the St. Lawrence River.

The Mohawk community, which is politically influential in the area, is involved in this project and is working closely with the project team that includes EPA Region II; New York State; Alcoa (Reynolds); several U.S. Army Corps of Engineer districts including New York, Kansas City, Buffalo, and Detroit; and TAMS Consultants.

The project is a Kansas City District mission because the district supports all of the EPA Region II’s environmental cleanup efforts. They were in charge of staffing the project and called on several districts and area offices for suitable candidates.

Mark Kucera, a 20-year civil engineer with New York District, was selected from the list of candidates. “Since this was a Superfund project under EPA’s authority and involved dredging of hazardous material, I was looking for someone with both hazardous, toxic,

and radioactive waste (HTRW), and dredging experience,” said Donald Braun, project engineer and Kucera’s supervisor. “I had a couple of engineers who fit the bill, but since Mark had extensive Superfund experience and was familiar with and well respected by the EPA as well as Kansas City District, I chose him.”

The Corps’ responsibility for the Superfund project was to provide 24-hour oversight of the clean-up operation performed by contractors hired by the Reynolds Metals Corporation.

“The EPA wanted a full-time presence on the federal level. I was the senior full-time federal government representative on site,” said Kucera. “With the Corps’ experience involving dredging, environ-



Photo: Mark Kucera

Three dredges working within three-quarters of a mile of each other helped clean up the Reynolds Metals Superfund site.

mental work, and construction management, we were an easy choice. My role was to verify the remediation work was being performed in compliance with the approved work plans, and to keep coordination with all the various agencies under control.”

Kucera said the project had its challenges, but nothing the team couldn’t handle. “Environmental work frequently yields challenges in that you’re not always sure what is there until you literally dig into it,” said Kucera. “The short construction season in northern New York complicated things considering the extensive scope of the project. Any problems we had to overcome became a group effort.”

(continued on next page)

superfund site (cont'd from previous page)

Public health concerns were another challenge for the project team. They held frequent public availability sessions to answer community questions. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Reservation's Environmental Staff attended the meetings and were always present on-site. Their main concerns were contamination flowing downriver into their property, the release of waterborne and airborne contamination, and the safe removal of dredged material.

Kucera's dedication to the project and long hours of work earned him Kansas City District's Heartland Award. "He received this award due to his exemplary performance in the field, including outstanding teamwork skills, and his endurance away from home," said Josephine Newton-Lund, project manager in Kansas City District.

The Heartland Award honors outstanding accomplishments by personnel outside of the district. Col. Robert Morris, a former Kansas City District Engineer, conceived the award. Before his tenure in 1997, there was no formal means to recognize outstanding achievements by individuals outside of the district, such as work performed by other Corps districts, military, and contractual personnel.

"I enjoyed the complexity of the project,"

Kucera said. "We had what was called the largest dredging fleet on the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway, three dredges within three-quarters of a mile of each other. All of the dredge spoil had to be transferred to land for stabilization and disposal. Add in all the environmental aspects and the various governments involved, it became more interesting than a typical dredging project. On the lighter side, it's a beautiful part of New York State."

Reynolds (Alcoa) has spent about \$47 million to clean up the site. The first phase was completed in early November 2001. The construction is ongoing.

"Twenty-four hour oversight was achieved successfully," said Newton-Lund. "The EPA Region II was happy with our field oversight crew, which was led by Kucera and consisted of personnel from New York, Buffalo, Detroit, and Kansas City districts, and TAMS Consultants, Inc. The Corps oversight crew provided the EPA remedial project manager with on-site information daily. They performed this in an exemplary manner. EPA also depended on the oversight crew's outstanding technical skills."

Kucera stresses that this project was a team effort. "We had a great team of players," he said. "I'd like to think I made a contribution to the team effort."

Caven Point crews recognized for 9/11 support

New York's Caven Point office was the spot for a recent awards presentation. Members of the boat crews were presented plaques and pins for their support during and after the attacks on New York City. "For their selfless efforts throughout the rescue and recovery operations during the September 11th disasters," read the citations.

Col. John O'Dowd, District Engineer presented the awards to the crews of *Hayward*, *Gelberman*, *Driftmaster* and *Hocking* crews and support staff who were on the scene from the beginning and who worked 24-hour days operating their vessels from and to lower Manhattan to transport thousands of stranded citizens and later to haul away WTC debris.

"Everywhere I travel I always hear positive statements about the boat crews here on the New York Harbor. You should be proud," said O'Dowd.



(l-r) Col. O'Dowd congratulates Randall Hintz, of the District's Emergency Operations and John Hartmann, Chief of Operations during an awards presentation held at Caven Point, N.J.

Realty specialist retires following 61-year career



Photo: Vince Elias

Jerome Seiff

Jerry Seiff, senior reality specialist retired in October after a remarkable 61 years, 9 months, 21 days of government service. Seiff was a senior reality specialist who worked in Real Estate for 51 years.

Seiff was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for his many years of faithful service.

Seiff is a member of a number of committees for Veterans. He entered the Army and served in World War II. Arriving at the Corps in 1951, he started as a GS-6 in the Real Estate Division's Planning and Control Branch. Seiff negotiated and executed complex projects throughout the northeast. He rose through the ranks to become a team leader of outgrants.

He is responsible for achievements such as an easement to New York City in the 1960s for the construction of the Verazzano Bridge using 63 acres at Fort Hamilton. Seiff was also responsible for disposing and transferring property to private and local ownership including missile sites in New York, and various sites in New Jersey. Seiff prepared a quitclaim deed and obtained approval for transferring 1,412.42 acres of land at Stewart Air Force Base to New York State in the 1970s which resulted in the construction of Stewart International Airport.

In the 1990s, Seiff prepared and obtained approval for the Hotel Thayer lease at the USMA West Point between the U.S. Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fund and Hudson River Partners, L.P. This provided much-needed hotel accommodations of the highest order for our national military academy. Seiff also completed deed packages allowing the USARC program to meet its schedule following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on New York City.

Seiff continues to be a volunteer as a retired annuitant with real estate where he assists in mentoring and coaching individuals in New York District.

Service Awards



10 Years

15 Years

Sharoyah Bala, SE
Thomas Battaglia, CO
Jovencio Cariaga, OP
Thomas Enroth, PPMD
Heidi Firstencel, OP
Mark Forte, OP
Richard Gajdek, PPMD
Dale Gamache, RE
Donald Harris, OC
Randall Hintz, OP

Constantine Karathanasis, CO
Mary Links, PL
Loretta Parris, CT
Alisa Pittman, RE
Diane Rahoy, EN
Judith Rugg, PL
Monique Wiggins, RM
Vanessa Woolford, RE
Thomas Wyche, OP

Rodney Abrams, EN
Gezahegne Assegid, EN
Bennett Baker, EN
Nancy Brighton, PL
Mark Burlas, PL
John Canby, CO
Ricardo Collazo, OP
John Connell, OP
Anthony Ciorra, PPMD
Christine Delorier, OP
Michael DeBenedictis, CO
Stephen DiBari, EN
Barbara Dindl, RE
Janet Faló, PPMD
Daniel Florio, OP

Jeffrey Frye, PPMD
Robert Gerrits, EN
Brian Jackson, CO
Daniel Karlok, OP
Neal Kolb, CO
Mark Kucera, CO
Costas Lymberis, CO
Michael Marcello, OP
Patrick Nejang, CO
Brian Orzel, OP
Howard Ruben, PL
Craig Spitz, OP
Dennis Swain, OP
Christina Rasmussen, EN
Herman Wine, PPMD

Residents set sail to observe dredging operations

By Carolyn Vadino

New York District hosted a “Day on the Dock” for Bayonne, N.J. residents during Veteran’s Day weekend. The day was organized to provide members of the community an opportunity to meet with representatives of various port-related activities and discuss details of the deepening project in the Kill van Kull, including its importance to the local community and region as a whole.

The Kill van Kull is a vital waterway that separates New York and New Jersey and is a crucial artery necessary to accommodate large container ships.

“The ‘Day on the Dock’ may not make things shake any less, it may not make any less noise, but at least you’ll understand the project,” Col. John O’Dowd, District Engineer said as he addressed a crowd of residents.

The event was held on Brady’s Dock, not far from where two drill boats are currently working to complete contract area 5 (to date, five of nine contracts are completed) to deepen the KVK to 45 feet. Over 50 residents, ranging in ages 10 to 78, gathered in the tent to view exhibits that included port photos, rock samples, geophones and seismographs.

“As a resident, I felt the event was extremely valuable in that it showed the whole picture,” said Ted Connolly, First Ward council member and



Photos: Peter Shugert

Col. John O’Dowd, District Engineer explains dredging operations to two Bayonne residents on Brady’s Dock.

Bayonne resident. “It had everyone in one place from dredging and blasting contractors to management and workers. It provided me the opportunity to meet with everyone in person and see the difficulties and learn about the procedures in regard to the deepening efforts,” he said.

“It was also enlightening in that I saw some of the residents that have been going through this [drilling and blasting] for 10 years, feel better about the progression of communication between the Army Corps of Engineers and the blasting companies that are involved,” said Connolly.

Residents also received a tour of the nation’s third largest container port, courtesy of two Army Corps’ vessels, the *Hocking* and the *Hayward*. Residents sailed along the KVK and up into Newark Bay, receiving an up-close look at the drill boats and dredge in action and had their questions answered by the subject matter experts in charge of the KVK project.

The deepening project is part of an overall effort to create a safe and efficient transportation network for large vessels calling on the Port of New York and New Jersey. The existing 40-foot channel does not permit access by many of today’s container ships.

Participants in the Day on the Dock included the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, U.S. Coast Guard, Contract Drilling and Blasting, Bean Stuyvesant, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock, New York Shipping Association, and Nation’s Port.



Joseph Seebode, Chief of Harbor Programs met with several residents who attended the community relations session on Brady’s Dock. Residents learned about the importance of the Kill van Kull dredging operations from Corps and Port Authority representatives.



Civil Works

New York District evaluates seawall at historic national monument

New York District signed an interagency agreement with the National Park Service in September to perform design, environmental analysis, and historic preservation work associated with the rehabilitation of the historic Ellis Island seawall in New York Harbor.

Engineers of New York District are evaluating needed repairs on the seawall surrounding the island that was used during its peak years -- 1892 to 1924 to welcome thousands of immigrants a day. Over 100 million Americans can trace their ancestry in the United States to a man, woman or child whose name passed from a steamship manifest sheet to an inspector's record at Ellis Island.

As part of the seawall evaluation, which began in September, the Corps is conducting a subsurface examination with the assistance of a drill crew from the its Baltimore District.

"This project provides us with a rare opportunity to perform a major role in protecting one of the most important landmarks in our nation's history," said Anthony Ciorra, project manager. "The project team is fully cognizant of the cultural and historic significance of Ellis Island, which is added motivation for delivering a quality product to our customer."

The seawall is a significant feature of the Ellis Island National Monument and many segments represent original construction dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. A subsurface investigation will include digging test pits and conducting soil borings.

As detailed in historical pictures and documents, the vast majority of Ellis Island is ei-



Ellis Island:

- ~ occupies 27 acres in Upper New York Bay, and is located southwest of Manhattan.
- ~ has been Government-controlled since 1808.
- ~ was the site of an arsenal and a fort.
- ~ served from 1892 to 1954 as the primary immigration station for the United States.
- ~ is estimated that 40 percent of all Americans had an ancestor arrive at Ellis Island.



Historic Ellis Island national monument is located in the New York Harbor.

ther placed fill material or placed dredged material.

The Corps plans on conducting additional field investigations at the site to include a geophysical survey of the sidewalk and public areas at the easternmost end of what is referred to as Island One.

Any proposed repairs will attempt to maintain the historic nature of the seawall and provide strength and stability to ensure the continued preservation of Ellis Island.

In 1965 Ellis Island was included as part of Statue of Liberty National Monument. Ellis Island's main building was restored to its former grandeur in September 1990.



District employees walk for the cure

By Ken Wells, Public Affairs

On Sunday Oct. 20, a number of employees from New York District took part in an important event in support of breast cancer awareness, "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer," in Central Park in New York City. The event is a non-competitive 5-mile walk designed to raise awareness, foster camaraderie, and generate funds for breast cancer research, services, and advocacy.

Vikki Gross of EEO, in conjunction with Donna Vaughan and Ellen Simon, were responsible for coordinating District employee involvement. This year's District participants, family, and friends included Gross, her husband, Burnard, and son Devyn; Vaughan and family members, Beverly, Martina, and Tamiko Vaughan, Ellen Collins, Patricia Kenner and Natalie Joseph; Simon; Yadi Rivera-Villegas; Karen Hicks; Johnny Martinez and his wife Norma; Wedad Youssef; Monique Wiggins; Juliette Baker, and Lindsay Glover.

Ellen Simon is involved in various breast cancer awareness causes. "You can walk, volunteer, become a sponsor or make a donation," said Simon. "There are many ways to fight this disease."

The walk is sponsored in part by the American Cancer Society, which has dedicated more than \$2 billion to trailblazing scientific research, published



Glad to be making strides to eliminate breast cancer. District participants (l-r) Lindsay Glover, Ellen Simon, Vikki Gross, Yadi Rivera-Villegas, Karen Hicks, Johnny Martinez, Wedad Youssef, Monique Wiggins and Juliette Baker.

breast health guidelines that help individuals protect themselves, and localized the BRCA1 gene for inherited susceptibility to breast cancer.

Barbara Delinsky, a New York Times best selling author and author of "Uplift: Secrets from the Sisterhood of Breast Cancer Survivors" supplied team T-shirts that bore the book's title. "Uplift" contains practical tips and upbeat anecdotes for those with breast cancer, told by breast cancer survivors of all ages that not only comfort those undergoing treatment, but educate their family and friends as well. Delinsky donates all of her profits from "Uplift" to further breast cancer research.



Security Office News

New York State recently joined 47 other states by making identify theft a crime. Under the law, New York will treat ID theft as a felony. The law criminalizes identity theft as well as the lawful possession of personal ID information to commit fraud and other criminal acts. People in New Jersey have the same rights under existing law.

If you've been a victim of identity theft, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by contacting the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline: toll-free 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338); TDD: 202-326-2502; by mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580

If someone has stolen your identity, the FTC recommends you take the following action immediately: Complete a federal ID theft affidavit available at (877) 382-4357; Contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus. Inform them to flag your file with a fraud alert including a statement that creditors should get your permission before opening new accounts in your name. Request copies of your credit reports. Credit bureaus must give you a free copy of your report if it is inaccurate because of fraud. The three major credit bureaus: Equifax 800.525.6285; Experian 888.EXPERIAN, and Trans Union (800) 680-7289.

Contact the security departments at financial institutions and businesses where accounts have been fraudulently opened. File a local police report where the identity theft took place.

District launches pilot mentoring program

By Vince Elias

New York District launched another ambitious pilot program orchestrated by Human Resources. In August, mentors and mentees interacted in the conference room at a brunch kick off for the pilot program.

The District's mentoring program is the latest of many successful programs targeted at Corps employees new to the District.

Sandra Gaffney of the office of Counsel and Debra Smith of Human Resources presided at the kick off. Gaffney was instrumental from the program's inception to its implementation during the initial planning phase of the program which began as a district wide mentoring 'needs and wishes' survey conducted by an OPLAN initiative sub-team in 1999.

"I'm delighted to see this program come to fruition. One of the reasons that I am so enthusiastic about the program is that it was shaped by the people it serves, the New York District employees," said Gaffney.

Lt. Col. Douglas Sarver, Deputy Commander made the welcoming remarks and Debra Smith of Human Resources spoke about the specifics of the program.

"The mentoring initiative is an extension of the District's highly successful summer hire program that the District conducts through the government-wide Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students," said Smith. Smith reminded everyone that the program also helps mentors. Smith called the program "win-win" for the Corps and for persons seeking employment.

"We want to increase the number of mentors and mentees within our work force," she explained.



Photo: Vince Elias

Mentor and mentee Debra Murray (right) of Real Estate and Marilyn Robinson of Resource Management are two active participants in the mentoring program.

"We have invested in their career development and they want significant and successful careers."

Jeffery Kumor, mentee, joined the program to be able to see the big picture through someone else's eyes. "Furnish me some guidance about the whole ball of wax, so to speak," he said.

"I joined the program in order to help guide new staff in their career path using my experiences as a model, said Jodi McDonald, mentor.

"The mentoring program will benefit the district by providing the staff with an opportunity to learn more about the Corps and about themselves, and to seek information and resources. The District will also benefit by recruiting and retaining employees who strive to improve themselves, and to discover where they ideally fit within the organization, said McDonald. "I've shared the district mentoring program information with people from across the Corps who want to begin a mentoring program in their respective districts -- after all, the Corps is a learning organization," she said.

"The pilot mentoring program is slated to run one year," added Smith. The relationships formed between mentors and their mentees will shape themselves to be as simple or as complex as participants desire.

Gaffney reminded employees that the permanent program will be implemented after review of the pilot program by senior management.

Employees interested in participating as a mentor or mentee should contact Debra Smith in HR directly or submit an e-mail request to the Mentor Program mailbox at Mentor, CENAN 02.

Hispanic Heritage Month guests make program numero uno

Guitarist Junior Colon and guest speaker Professor Otilio Diaz from the Puerto Rican Cultural Heritage House were participants of New York District's Hispanic Heritage Month program arranged by EEO. Colon performed a variety of musical numbers and Diaz spoke about the contributions by Hispanic Americans from the Caribbean nations.





Col. (P) Merdith W.B. (Bo) Temple

Announcements

Col. (P) Temple takes command of NAD

Col. (P) Merdith W. B. (Bo) Temple took command of North Atlantic Division on Nov. 25, 2002. He relieved Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades who retired. His previous assignment was commander of the Corps' Transatlantic Programs Center in Winchester, Va.

Col. (P) Temple, a Virginia native, was commissioned in the Engineer Branch in 1975. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Virginia Military Institute and a master's degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College, and he is a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Col. (P) Temple has held numerous command and staff positions in the United States and overseas. Before his assignment to the Transatlantic Programs Center in 2001, he was the assistant chief of staff, Operations (G3), XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C. He has been stationed at Fort Bragg for multiple assignments: the 548th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy), 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) (Airborne Corps); the 307th Engineer Battalion, 82d Airborne Division; as commander, 307th Engineer Battalion and as commander, 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) (Airborne Corps). He has served with the U.S. Army Personnel Command Center in Virginia and as a Reserve Component adviser with the Readiness Group in Colorado.

He has served overseas with the 44th Engineer Battalion, Korea; U.S. Army Europe & 7th Army, Germany; 307th Engineer Battalion in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War; and with NATO Headquarters in Turkey.

His decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit (2 oak leaf clusters), the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal (6 oak leaf clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (4 oak leaf clusters), the Army Superior Unit Award, and the Master Parachutist Badge.



Maxine Anderson

President of the local 98 IFPTE

New union officials elected

Results from the union election conducted in September for the local 98 IFPTE

Officers elected for 2002 – 2004:

- MAXINE ANDERSON – PRESIDENT
- VANESSA DAVIS – VICE PRESIDENT
- DENISE BUTTS – TREASURER
- LINDA BUSSEY – SECRETARY
- FRANK TANGORA – FIRST TRUSTEE

TRUSTEES

- ELAINE EUBANKS
- YADIRA RIVERA-VILLEGAS
- JULIETTE BAKER
- STANLEY NUREMBURG
- ELECTION COMMITTEE
- ROBERT HASS
- GRACE COLLINS
- STEVE YANDRICH

Corps employees nationwide open their hearts for New York firefighter fund

To date, the FDNY Firefighter Michael Kiefer Fund has raised over \$40,000. Michael Kiefer, son of Bud Kiefer, an employee of New York District is honored for the fund that was started in January 2002. Michael Kiefer a firefighter with the New York City Fire Department lost his life while responding with his unit to the attacks at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.



The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the New York Hospital-Cornell Burn Center.

The Kiefer family and New York District coordinators Lou Benard and Jenine Gallo convey their thanks and appreciation to all Corps employees inside and outside of New York District who have contributed to the fund.

District salutes NAD Commander



Photos: Peter Shugert

New York District paid tribute to Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades, Commander, North Atlantic Division, at a farewell salute by Corps vessels on Nov. 19, one week prior to his retirement. Brig. Gen. Rhoades commanded North Atlantic Division for the past three years.

Three Corps vessels along with a New York City Fire Department fireboat and New York City police department boat paid homage to Brig. Gen. Rhoades and his wife, Vivian.

Brig. Gen. Rhoades returned the salute with a fond farewell wave from the shores of Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, as the vessels blasted their horns and the fireboat pumped jets of water into the air in honor of his superb leadership while commanding North Atlantic Division.



John Sasson, Area Engineer, Picatinny shakes hands with New Jersey Governor John McGreevey. Gamal Award, Tommy Thompson and Sasson recently met with the Governor in Sea Bright, N.J. The Corps on-site project engineers are involved with the Corps' crucial Sea Bright beach renourishment project.



Safety line

Safety record upheld at landfill operations. Over 1.7 million people-hours at the Staten Island landfill WTC operation and not a single fatality and only one serious injury.

The Safety Office staff provided the leadership of the inter-agency team that ensured that the work would be accomplished safely.



**US Army Corps
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New York District

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Address Correction Requested