

The New York District Times



Autumn 2005, Vol. 30, No.4

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

District responds to hurricane disaster

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed. D.

We've all seen the images of Hurricane Katrina's destruction -- flooded streets, destroyed homes, shattered families. It's these same images that will help rebuild the lives of our fellow Americans in the Gulf Coast.

The Corps used a geographic information system to create maps needed to perform recovery efforts in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other federal, state, and regional agencies.

The Corps at one time had many employees actively engaged in the recovery efforts throughout Mississippi and Louisiana that included providing temporary housing and roofing, power, debris removal, water, ice, and repairing the levees around New Orleans and pumping floodwater out of the region.

"The region needed to be mapped out first before the recovery efforts were to begin because the hurricane blew away most of the street signs so rescue teams and recovery teams had no idea what streets they were on," said Stephen McDevitt of New York District. McDevitt was one of the national action officers responsible for deploying and managing GIS teams throughout the disaster region.

Maps can be created using a GIS, a computer-based information system and analytical tool. McDevitt said, "The GIS takes data from various sources, including aerial photography, flood zones and formations in various ways as overlays to perform spatial analysis and produce a map which depicts the results of that analysis."

(Continued on page 5)



Army Corps photo

Jason Shea of New York District gets a bird's eye view from a helicopter window of the damage from Hurricane Katrina.



Photo: Jared Andre

The GIS Response Team looks over the mapping with a Corps customer at the Baton Rouge, La., Joint Field Office. The field office was established in September to provide GIS mapping support to the Corps' Hurricane Katrina mission.



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

New York District Times

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

Autumn 2005
Aug./Sept./Oct.

**Commander and
District Engineer**
Col. Richard J. Polo Jr.

Chief, Public Affairs
Peter H. Shugert
peter.h.shugert@usace.army.mil

Editing and Design
Vince Elias
vincent.elias@usace.army.mil

- **Authorization:** The New York District Times is an authorized unofficial newsletter of the New York District. It is published in accordance with provisions of Army Regulation 360-1.

- **Circulation:** 1500 copies per issue in print and available on the Internet at:
www.nan.usace.army.mil

- **Submission:** News, features, photos and art are solicited. Direct queries to: Editor, Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2113, New York, NY 10278-0090.

- **Contents:** Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or this command. All photos, unless otherwise credited, are official U.S. Army photos.



9-11-01

Lest we forget

Regional teams are a great success

By Brig. Gen. Bo Temple

In 2003, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers established USACE 2012, a new way of doing business that includes the customer together with Corps counterparts to form more effective teams.

USACE 2012 encourages us to work more like a business and less like a hierarchical organization. In the past, we worked primarily as stand-alone elements. Now we work more as regional teams composed of members from many districts, other divisions, and our customers. North Atlantic Division has shown that this can be a win-win situation for the Corps and our customers.

Federal Creosote Superfund Site

NAD has the largest Superfund program in the Corps, more than 50 percent of all program funding. The Federal Creosote Superfund Site Project in Manville, N.J., is one of several large-scale Superfund projects that New York District is working on with the Environmental Protection Agency's Region II. The \$175 million project involves cleaning up creosote that contaminates the soil and groundwater of a 50-acre area of residential and commercial property.

The project delivery team includes New York District as lead, Philadelphia District, Baltimore District, as well as support from other districts, divisions, and EPA Region II.

Corps Benefits "In the initial forming of our project delivery team, we wanted to tap the expertise of New York District's Real Estate office, but they were occupied with other critical projects," said Gene Urbanik, acting New Jersey area engineer. "We needed depth and flexibility, and decided to work with other NAD districts. For instance, we were able to use the services of Baltimore District's Real Estate office, which supplied us staff. Without this capability, we wouldn't have been able to efficiently relocate area residents, which would have delayed the project."

Customer Benefits "EPA and the project delivery team created a cost tracking system to keep on top of the project's budget," said John Frisco, who manages the Superfund program for EPA Region II. "Keeping track of our budget has become very important, especially in the last few years as the national demand for Superfund monies has exceeded the available program budget. This useful system was created successfully and promptly due to the knowledge and expertise of the team members. The system has not only helped monitor costs at Federal Creosote, but has also served as a boilerplate for other joint EPA/Corps Superfund projects."



Brig. Gen. Merdith W. B. Temple

(continued on page 3)

Regional Teams success *(Continued from page 2)*

Research & Development Loading Facility

New York District is building an Explosive Research and Development Loading Facility that will give Picatinny Arsenal a high-tech consolidated complex where advanced explosives can be researched and developed. Presently, Picatinny performs this work in substandard facilities scattered throughout the installation.

The project delivery team includes New York District as lead, Europe District, Norfolk District and the customer, Picatinny Arsenal.

Corps Benefits — “This is a one-of-a-kind research and development facility that required staff with special knowledge and experience of explosives, explosive safety design, and requirements to support the user’s mission function,” said Jeffrey Frye, project manager. “Having the flexibility to pick and choose team members from other districts enabled us to get the region’s best people with the right expertise.”

Customer Benefits — “I was concerned at first about the quality of the project when I learned the Corps planned to use team members from around the world,” said Joseph Christiano, Energetics & Warhead Group. “However, I quickly realized that the team members from the other districts possessed extensive knowledge and expertise. The entire team communicated well and we were able to capture all the mission-critical requirements of the daily functions of the Energetics and Warheads group that will occupy the new facility.”

Former Raritan Arsenal

NAD performs environmental cleanups under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program. One of these projects is the Former Raritan Arsenal Project in Edison, N.J. The former arsenal’s missions included the transshipment, storage, renovation, and salvaging of ordnance and military vehicles.

After the arsenal’s closure in 1961, the site was cleaned in 1963, but some areas were still contaminated with high explosive ordnance, chemical warfare agents, and hazardous and toxic waste.

New York District is managing the environmental soil and groundwater investigations and clean ups at the site. Recently, the team has been evaluating groundwater contamination and its

potential impact on indoor air quality in buildings (including three child daycare centers) on the site.

The project delivery team includes New York District as lead, New England District, Baltimore District, other district offices from other divisions and the customer, the Department of Defense.

Corps Benefits — “Because of the flexibility of having regional teams we were able to find the best group of people to work on this project,” said Jim Moore, project manager. “Since New York District is not an HTRW design district, New England District has provided design support for the arsenal project team since the early 1990s. As new challenges were encountered, the team was augmented with experts from Baltimore District and districts from other divisions. The collaboration of multi-district project delivery team in the field of vapor intrusion has allowed us to develop an indoor air evaluation process, and determine the potential health impacts.”

Customer Benefits — “DoD has described the team’s success in its Annual Report to Congress, which is an indicator they are pleased with the work being performed. As a regional team we are using these funds economically. We are using the funds to pay for the work to be done with a blend of in-house and contractor forces. So we are making the best use of our customer’s funds,” said Moore.

Tacony Warehouse Demolition & Site Restoration

NAD performs environmental restoration projects under the Base Realignment and Closure program. One of these projects is Baltimore District’s Tacony Warehouse Demolition and Site Restoration in Philadelphia.

(Continued on page 4)



Jeffrey Frye, New York District, project manager (far right) and team members for the Explosive Research and Development loading facility look over plans for the one-of-a-kind project.

Regional Teams success *(Continued from page 3)*

This project consisted of demolishing of two major warehouses and various outbuildings. Restoration of the site included excavating and disposing of soils and construction debris contaminated with trichloroethylene/perchloroethylene solvents.

A project delivery team included NAD's Baltimore District as lead, Philadelphia District, various field offices, plus customer representatives from the Fort Dix BRAC Office, BRAC Atlanta Office, and the Fort Myer garrison commander.

Corps Benefits — Regular team communication made this project a success. “Weekly meetings with all team members allowed the team to resolve issues in a timely fashion and continue moving forward while adjusting to overcome the challenges discovered during the project,” said Roger Moore, project manager.

Customer Benefits — “This communication among the team members helped us to meet the needs of the customer. “This team used open and continuous communication to keep the customer’s objectives paramount to their own, and resulted in accomplishing stated objectives while overcoming additional environmental challenges as they were discovered during the demolition,” said Moore.

Renovation of First Floor, U.S. Army Hospital, Wuerzburg, Germany

Europe District is heavily involved with construction for the U.S. Army Medical Command. The renovation of the first floor of the U.S. Army Hospital in Wuerzburg will help bring the facility up to the standards of the command and federal regulation, while also being aesthetically pleasing.

The project delivery team includes Europe and Philadelphia Districts and the U.S. Army Medical Command.

Corps Benefits — “I was backlogged with millions of dollars worth of Military Interdepartmental Purchase Requests,” said Frank Gonzales, project manager. “By absorbing an individual from Philadelphia District we got projects out, got task orders issued, and construction began in a timely fashion.”

“Philadelphia District was instrumental in completing the upcoming renovation of the first floor of the hospital,” he continued. “They spearheaded this and completed 90 percent of the work. It provided

excellent support to the Installation Support Branch, which in turn supports the customer.”

Customer Benefits — “Regionalization at the Corps is a successful concept that has provided my organization with efficient and effective solutions to problems that typically require specialized expertise, such as clean room design for a pharmaceutical sterile preparation application,” said Mark Wentink, program manager for the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity in Wuerzburg. “I can see a benefit because the Corps is able to pull in someone who may have specialization in an area that I need.”

Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot

NAD performs environmental clean up projects under the Formerly Used Defense Sites program that cleans up properties formerly owned, leased, possessed, or used by the military. One of these projects is Norfolk District’s Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot in Suffolk, Va. In 1987, crystalline TNT was found at FNOD, and the site would later be added to the National Priorities List of contaminated sites. The Corps is performing this estimated \$125.5 million clean-up.

The project delivery team includes Norfolk District, Baltimore District, and the customer, the U.S. Army.

Corps Benefits — “There are many benefits of a joint district team,” said George Mears, acting project manager. “The broader team brings subject matter experts with past experience, and establishes personal relationships to deal with regulatory questions and challenges, as well bringing different perspectives and a greater selection of alternatives when looking for options.”

Customer Benefits — “I believe that the success of the FNOD team has been the vision of all the participants to act as one integrated team,” said Rob Thomson, project manager for EPA. “The ultimate benefits of a well-run project extend to the customer. At FNOD, decisions are reached and work completed sooner than would otherwise be possible by using the broader team experience and expertise and avoiding many of the pitfalls prevalent in any complex project.”

(Brig. Gen. Bo Temple was commander of North Atlantic Division when this article was written. He is now Director of Military Programs in Headquarters USACE, and Brig. Gen. William Grisoli commands NAD. JoAnne Castagna technical writer New York District contributed to this article.)

GIS (Continued from page 1)

GIS is one of several tasks that must be initiated immediately when acting on a disaster relief situation.

Creating accurate GIS maps is one of the first steps to performing recovery efforts that include: Assessing post-disaster damage, rescue and recovery, building temporary housing, removing debris, pumping flood water, and identifying impacted communities.

To assess damage, maps are created of the entire region. First aerial photos must be taken of the entire region. These photos are then laid over geographic coordinates and this information is brought into a computer mapping system to create a map.

The GIS teams gathered data of where hurricane victims were located and fed information into the GIS database. This data combined with the post-event aerial photography and other geographic data to produce maps that search and rescue workers used to locate and recover stranded individuals.

Temporary housing is only allowed to be created on land that is not prone to flooding, is safe and is in the proximity of services, such as hospitals and schools. Data on the flood zones is combined with other data types to produce maps to show the best locations for temporary housing.

The GIS maps can show engineers where debris is located. Engineers can calculate how much debris there is from these maps and determine how much it would cost to remove it. These maps can also show where the land is clear. Clear land is needed for staging areas to hold the equipment that will be used to remove the debris. In addition, GIS maps can show engineers the optimal routes for removing and transporting the debris. The GIS can perform 3-D analysis and modeling, which shows how long it will take for floodwaters to subside, using different rates of pumping. In addition, GIS teams in the field can provide data on where pump stations are located and which ones are working. This data can be used to help figure out how long it will take to pump water out of the region.

The GIS can create demographic maps that identify what economic and racial groups are impacted the most. These maps can be created by taking hurricane path data and combining this with the aerial images, wind speed data and census data. These maps are used by various groups involved in the rescue and recovery efforts, such as the Red Cross.

“Communicate, coordinate and cooperate are



David N. Rackmales, P.E., structural engineer, Engineering Division, Design Branch, collects preliminary flood damage data on a failed section of the London Street Canal floodwall in New Orleans, La. Rackmales deployed to Louisiana in Sept. as part of a Forward Engineer Support Team in conjunction with North Atlantic Division's response to Hurricane Katrina.

the three essential C's for getting things going and accomplishing what you need to in a short amount of time in disaster situations," said McDevitt.

He suggests the following to engineers faced with initiating a disaster relief mission:

Plan ahead and create a team of diversified specialists (many of the GIS team members come from other disciplines) and organize and utilize available resources (the Corps called upon existing contractors in order to be able to begin work immediately).

“In the beginning we needed to take aerial photography of the disaster and were able to immediately call an existing contractor to perform this work," said McDevitt.

Keep lines of communication open. The Corps has worked closely with other agencies and the working relationship has been great and McDevitt believes it was due to frequent communication. “I had two teleconference meetings with FEMA and other federal and state agencies daily.

“There is an incredible variety of ways that GIS can be used to help support disaster missions," he added. “A picture is worth a thousand words and if that picture has a lot of useful information on it people do relate to them.



Jason Shea of New York District stands by a mountain of debris in Miss. FEMA estimated that initially there was about 20 million cubic yards of debris in the hurricane impacted area of Mississippi. This equates to 200 football fields piled 50 feet high.

Corps supports hurricane mission as

During and after the disaster of Hurricane Katrina the Corps worked diligently in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, carrying out a wide variety of missions in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. The first priority was to support efforts to save lives and to locate people, second was to sustain lives by (water and shelter), and third was setting conditions for recovery, clean-up, and restoring infrastructure and navigation.

In addition to efforts to get drinking water out of New Orleans, the Corps also provided water, ice and electrical power; removed debris, and constructed temporary roofing.

At the initial response, the Corps had roughly 2,000 employees deployed in the affected areas by delivering 54 million liters of water, over 216 million pounds of ice, and 159 power generators. Hundreds of roofs were installed; and thousands of cubic yards of debris removed.

New York District has a contingent of volunteers who have served or are serving in the gulf region through the year.

The Corps worked with the city of New Orleans and private contractors, pumping out floodwaters from the city and the immediate vicinity.

The Corps worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure health and safety as the water was drained and received approval from EPA to move water following the agency's normal practices in emergencies.

Teamwork in action at Ocean Springs Complex site, Ocean Springs, Miss. (Clockwise from top center) Don Braun, NYD; Damian McKay, City of Ocean Springs; Tommy Hunt, Huntsville Center; Doug Leite, NYD; Steve Cowan, Bechtel and Edwin Ott, Compton Engineering, Ocean Springs City Engineer. (Photo: Bill Shadel)



Photos: Bill Shadel and Randy Hintz

Bobbi Jo McClain, New York District NEPA compliance officer, performing an environmental evaluation of a site proposed for group housing, travel trailers/mobile homes, in the coastal town of Biloxi, Miss. The storm-demolished building can be seen in the background; the dead brown vegetation is likely the result of saltwater from the storm surge.



District volunteers join Gulf team



Helicopter view of one of FEMA's staging areas in Mississippi for travel trailers/mobile homes.



Randy Hintz, New York District quality assurance supervisor, Operations, checks out the electrical installation on a travel trailer on private property.



NEPA compliance officers Steve Johnson (left), Rock Island District and Bill Shadel, biologist and ecologist, New York District, evaluate land for environmental policy compliance at an athletic club in Pass Christian, Miss. The site was proposed for group housing (travel trailers/mobile homes). Storm-damaged trees can be seen in the background.



Hurricane victim families convey gratitude to the Corps

Following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, New York District's EEO launched a care package drive and adopted families who were victims of Hurricane Katrina. Below are thank you notes received in greeting cards addressed to the District.



Thanks for the care package. My nieces and nephews loved everything. It warmed my heart to see the joy in their faces receiving the clothing and other items out of the box. It's good to be part of the Corps family. Our greatest loss from this hurricane was the loss of our father, grandfather, and great grandfather. May God bless you all for caring for us and continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

**John W. Wood and Family,
Baton Rouge, La.**

My family and I are safely back home in New Orleans. Thank you fr the clothes, school supplies, and gift cards. Everything was greatly appreciated and was/will be used. Please pass on my thanks to all who donated. Take care and may your many blessings continue to flow - I'm sure that mine will.

**Joyce Saulvy and Family
New Orleans, La.**

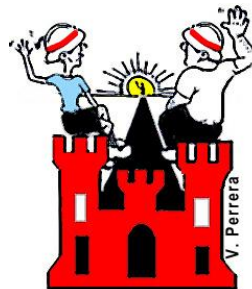
Thank you so much for the clothes!
**Barbara Dickerson and Family,
Savannah, Ga.**



Welcome Wagon

Jan Bovier, CO
Adriana Dunaway, CT
Naomi Handell, OP
Patsy Irvin, CO
Thomas Kennedy, CT
Albert Rumph, CT

Farewell



Jess Arrington, CT
Louis Borroum, EX
Venerando Castro, EN
Andy Henning, LM
Bievenida Jusay, RM
Halvor Koch, CO
Leroy Li, EN
Nicholas Patsis, CO
Fernando Santos, EN
Thomas Thompson, CO
Stephen Yandrich, PL

USMA Physical Development Center keeps cadets fighting fit

Story and photos by Eric S. Bartelt, USMA

August 13 marked the opening of the new 495,100-square-foot Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center. The center will promote the physical development of over 4,000 cadets at the U.S. Military Academy.

The new state-of-the-art facility features many amenities which include a weight room, two pools (one with wave capabilities), six racquetball courts, sports medicine facilities, boxing and wrestling rooms, and a rock climbing wall.

Varsity sports such as wrestling, club sports such as boxing and the many cadet intramurals will thrive within the walls of the new facility.

“Our club sports will benefit, as many of those have been farmed out to remote sites around post the last six years,” said Col. Gregory Daniels, Department of Physical Education director.

“We’ve increased the size of our gymnasium space nine-fold, so we have the opportunity now to allow the clubs to come back into a real gym instead of being in the Eisenhower Hall lobby, for instance.”

Intramural sports such as swimming and basketball will return, but the crown jewel of the physical development of cadets will be the climbing wall.

Plebes must take part in a course called Military Movement, which is essentially applied gymnastics and recently began lessons that included the use of the climbing wall.

“The (Class of 1979 Climbing Wall) is one of the showcase features of the new facility and it’s going to be a magnificent boon to what we’re doing here in the physical program,” Daniels said. “We have some nice outdoor climbing facilities here, but in the event of inclement weather we really didn’t have an adequate indoor facility — now we have that.”

“With the popularity of rock climbing right now, particularly in the younger age group that comes here to the academy, plus the military relevance of the activity...the climbing wall addresses fitness (needs), muscle strength and endurance (for all of our cadets),” Daniels added.

“(This place is) unbelievable,” said Cadet 1st Class Chelsea Haviland, a varsity diver. “I’m someone who’s very much into physical fitness, (and I believe) the second you offer greater things it’ll bring more people to love that feeling of working out.”



Cadet 2nd Class Ryan Vavruska (above) and Cadet 3rd Class Ryan Chapin (left) use new weight equipment in the spacious, state-of-the-art weight room in the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center.



Cadet 3rd Class Ben Thompson, a member of the Cadet Mountaineering Club, climbs up the 48-foot rock climbing wall at the new Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center.

This article appeared in the USMA Pointer View and was written by Eric S. Bartelt.



Chief observes construction at Fort Drum

In mid-October, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers, visited Fort Drum, N.Y. This was his first visit to the Fort Drum as Chief of Engineers. Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District and Ed Sim, who was recently promoted to Chief of the Fort Drum office, accompanied Strock as he toured and observed ongoing construction.

One of the construction projects he toured was the Wheeler Sack Army Air Field, a \$82 million dollar design-build project which includes two barracks, 13 company operations facilities, three battalion headquarters, troop aid station and dining facilities.

New York District has one of the largest military programs in the Corps and supports military construction at Fort Drum, the home of the 10th Mountain Division, which is one of the most deployed divisions in the Army.



Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers and Ed Sim, Chief of the Fort Drum office at the Wheeler Sack Army Air Field project site.



Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers (center) discusses ongoing projects at the Wheeler Sack Army Air Field project construction site with Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District; Joseph J. Valade of Fort Drum; Maj. Mark J. Deschenes, aide-de-camp to the Chief of Engineers; and Martin J. Tokos, project engineer, Fort Drum resident office.





Years of Service Awards

45 YEARS

James Riley

40 YEARS

Catalina Middleton

35 YEARS

Frank Cambria
Alan Dorfman
Harold Hawkins

30 YEARS

Gennaro Cimmino
Joseph Daskalakis
Joseph Kuleszynski
Timothy LaFontaine

25 YEARS

Thomas Creamer
Jeffrey Fry
Lawrence Mazzola
Perry Pang
Reginald Perry
Arlene Simon
Randy Williams
Wedad Youssef

20 YEARS

George Colon
Pannabhai Gohel
Sherif Guirguis
Roselle Henn
Mae Kathryn Hutchinson
Armando Jimenez
William Lyness
George Nieves
Abraham Portalatin

District celebrates women's equality and Hispanic heritage



Vikki Gross, EEO and Robert Federico, guest speaker at the Hispanic heritage program.

New York District kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month Oct. 5 with an ambitious program which featured guest speaker Robert Weber Federico, an associate producer of Spanish theater.

The event was arranged by Vikki Gross of EEO. Federico addressed an audience of Corps employees and spoke about his personal success and the contributions of Hispanic Americans.

EEO also set up a bulletin board displaying information about Hispanic Americans who contributed to the success of the nation. As in years past, the program featured a food sampling buffet prepared by Corps employees and featuring dishes with the flavor of Spain and Latin America.

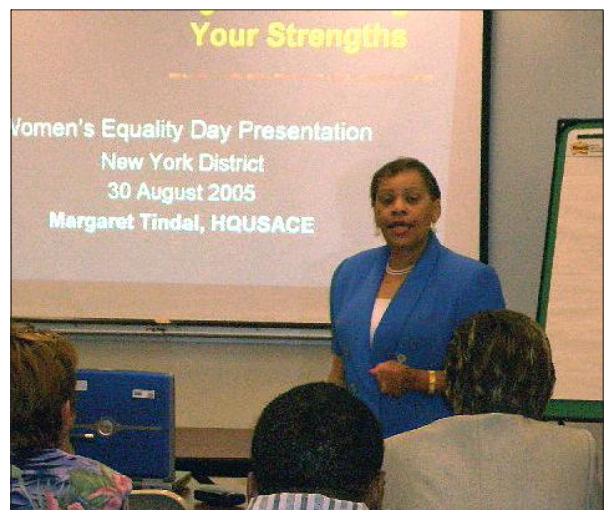
In August, EEO sponsored a workshop entitled, Discovering and Building on Your Strengths, in celebration of Women's Equality Day.

Margaret Tindal, USACE senior training adviser was the keynote speaker.

In 1971 the U.S. Congress designated Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day.

The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality.



Margaret Tindal, senior training adviser, HQ USACE was the keynote speaker at the Women's Equality Day workshop.

Photo: JoAnne Castagna

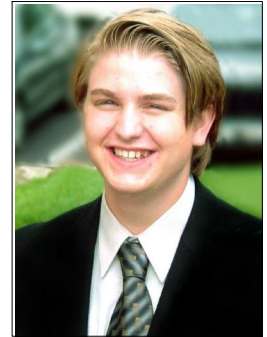


Highlights

Corps family members to receive scholarships

Events in New York District were highlighted by an announcement by the New York Federal Executive Board that two Corps family members received college scholarships. There were eight scholarships awarded to college freshman, three scholarships were awarded to undergraduate students and four scholarships awarded to graduate students.

The two recipients from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers are Donna Braun, of San Diego State University, daughter of Don Braun, Construction Division and James Fry, of Columbia University, son of Jeffrey T. Fry, Planning Division. Both will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. The FEEA scholarship fund is supported through donations received from the Combined Federal Campaign



James Fry, one of two District scholarship recipients

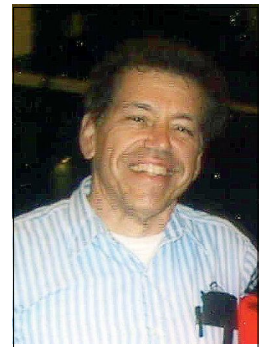
Retirements

Lois Borroum, EX,
Andy Henning, LMO
Steve Yandrich, PL
Inell Washington, CT

Steve Yandrich of Planning Division retired in September after 31 years of service in New York District.

He joined the Corps in 1974 as a physical scientist and worked in the compliance and enforcement section of Operations Division.

He also performed the duties as a project planner in Planning Division, where he was responsible for technical management, administration, and overall development of plan formulation studies for flood control, shoreline protection, navigation, ecosystem restoration, watershed planning, and urban waterfront development. He was involved in the Jamaica Bay Marsh Island, Bayville (North Shore of Long Island), and Lake Montauk Harbor projects. His retirement plans include traveling abroad, and spending time with his wife and daughter.



Wedding Bells



Kevin Smyth engineer, and **Kirsten Davis** archaeologist, both of Planning Division were wed July 31 at a ceremony held in North Hero Vt. They were wed by Jason Shea, also of the Planning Division. They honeymooned at a private residence on Lake Champlain.



Stork Club

Amy Mayfield of Resource Management and husband Army Capt. Derek Mayfield are the proud parents of Ava Grace Mayfield, born Nov. 1, 2005. Vital stats: 6 lbs., 12 oz.



Commander's Award

Congratulations to **Sharoyah Fernandez** of Security who was awarded the Commander's Award for civilian service. She received the award while working at TAC in Winchester, Va.

N.Y. District helps Brooklyn fort get power

The electrical substation at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, N.Y., sustained major damage in the summer and could marginal carry the electrical power for the installation.

The Department of Public Works contacted New York District to support the installation during ongoing work. In response, New York District provided electrical engineering support at Fort Hamilton by coordinating with the Army's Prime Power 249th Engineers, Fort Belvoir, Va., to transport two 1500 KVA for a total of 3 megawatts mobile emergency generators during major substation repairs.



Photo: Thomas Sessa

Electrical generator supported by the U.S. Army Corps at Fort Hamilton.

Corps participates in Native American conference

Marty Goff of New York District's Engineering Division and EEO special emphasis program manager for Native American employment attended the American Indian Science and Engineering Society conference held in Detroit.

The Corps set up a booth at the conference center in November staffed by Corps representatives. Literature about the Corps' national and global engineering mission was available for interested students and visitors.

AISES was founded in 1977 by American Indian scientists, engineers and educators. AISES helps American Indian and Alaska Native students prepare for careers in science, technology, and engineering. AISES promotes excellence, leadership and opportunities in education and professional development for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The society's goal is to enrich the fields of science and engineering with Native traditions and to strengthen communities with knowledge, resources and innovation.

AISES also develops culturally appropriate curricula and publications. AISES builds partnerships with tribes, schools, other non-profit organizations, corporations, foundations and government agencies.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers set up a career booth at the AISES conference held in November in Detroit.

Corps and TNC partner to improve management of northeast waterways

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division and The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Region signed an agreement Nov. 3 which brings together the combined strength and expertise of the two organizations under the shared goal of improving sustainable management of water resources and riparian habitats in the northeastern United States.

Under the partnership, The Nature Conservancy and the Army Corps will work together to implement new and innovative techniques and strategies, sharing scientific, conservation and engineering expertise to provide vital human services while protecting the rich and diverse ecosystems of the northeast.

"With the signing of this agreement, we are formalizing a partnership and anticipate working together to protect critical watersheds in the northeast, and to facilitate environmental protection and sustainable growth," said Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division.

"By aligning The Nature Conservancy's ecological expertise and the Army Corps' engineering excellence under a shared ecological goal, we are creating a powerful force for watershed protection," said Mike Andrews, chief conservation officer for The Nature Conservancy. "Our partnership has already achieved notable success. With the removal of the Cuddebackville Dam from the Neversink River, American shad and native brook trout can migrate upstream for the first time in 100 years."

"Working together, the Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy will bring a wide range of expertise and resources to the type of water



Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli, commander North Atlantic Division, and Mike Andrews, TNC Chief Conservation officer, shake hands following the signing of the memorandum of understanding.

resource projects that will benefit Vermont. This is an exciting development that will go a long way in protecting our rivers and other critical watersheds," said Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords, the ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

"As one of our active federal partners in both the Lake Champlain and Connecticut River watersheds, the Corps of Engineers makes an important contribution to our overall conservation efforts in the Northeast region," said Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy. "Partnerships with The Nature Conservancy and other conservation organizations that have specific expertise strengthen the role the

Corps plays in support of the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the Connecticut River Joint Commissions."

Behind the scenes, scientists, planners and strategists from across the nation met in Stowe the same week for a national four-day conference focused on collaborative partnering for sustainable watershed management. Through the evaluation of case studies, scientific exchange and strategy discussions, the partners are laying the ground work for innovative projects nationwide.

Vermont's West River, flowing 46 miles from the ridgelines of the Green Mountains to its confluence with the Connecticut River, has been selected as one of nine priority projects under the partners' Sustainable Rivers Initiative. The 300,000-acre forested watershed includes many high priority ecological targets for The Nature Conservancy and two dams operated by the Army Corps of Engineers.

(Continued on page 15)

MOU (Continued from page 14)

“The Corps and The Nature Conservancy are partnering to undertake studies to better understand flows on the West River and the effects of the Corps flood control dams,” said Col. Curtis Thalken, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

“Human modifications to our rivers, such as dams and water withdrawals, have been identified as the leading cause of decline in freshwater life,” commented Rose Paul, director of science and stewardship for the Vermont chapter. “We are excited by the deep level of engagement we have with the Corps, and the opportunity to learn from each others expertise on the West River.

To study the ecological effects of dam-controlled flow regimes The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring a one-year research fellowship. By analyzing native plants and animals from migratory fish to floodplain forests, the study will answer the question not only of how low or high the river should run, but also when, how frequently and how fast the river level should change.

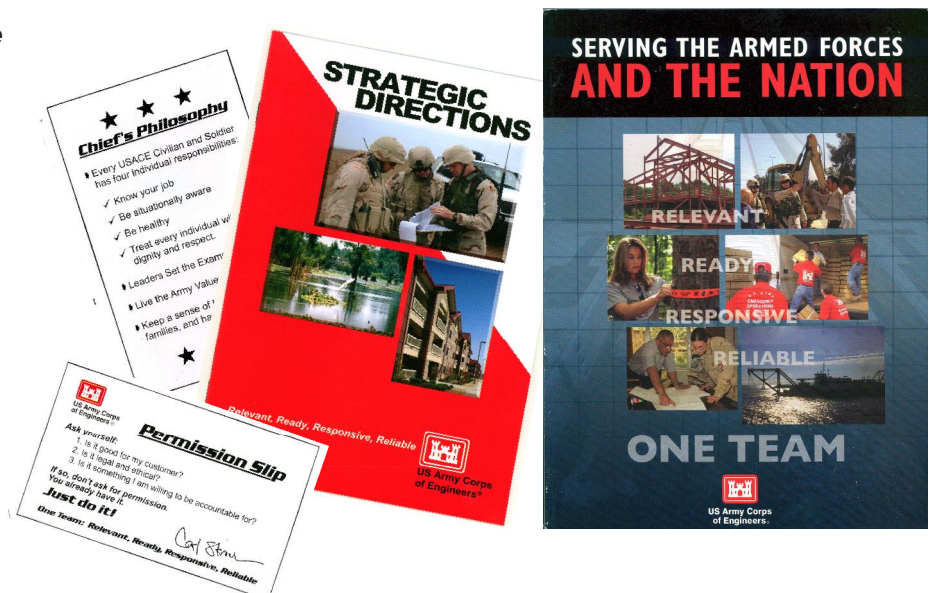
By combining the Corps flow modeling expertise with the results of the Conservancy’s ecological impact study, the partners plan to define flow ‘prescriptions’ for the West River by the end of 2006 to balance ecological, flood control and recreational needs.

Under the framework of the regional agreement the partners will also be evaluating opportunities to expand collaboration in the Lake Champlain basin. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a proud partner of the Lake Champlain Basin Program, providing assistance with planning, design and implementation of projects to improve water quality, water supply and the ecosystem, while preserving and enhancing the economic and social character of local communities. Corps projects currently underway in Vermont and New York combine strategies for reducing phosphorus input with sustainable habitat restoration and bio-engineering. The Nature Conservancy has protected thousands of acres of wetlands and uplands in the Lake Champlain basin and plays a pivotal role in controlling the spread of water chestnut.

‘Just do it’ Corps permission slip, *Serving the Armed Forces and the Nation* magazine and *Strategic Directions* brochure distributed by USACE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers *Serving the Armed Forces and The Nation* magazine, and *Strategic Directions* brochure has been published and distributed by USACE. Distribution plans to employees will be released soon!

In addition, the new “Just do it!” permission slip continues the message of Lt. Gen. Flowers, and has been updated and endorsed by Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers.



District makes splash at community events

By Carolyn Vadino

The Corps of Engineers recently brought the New York and New Jersey Harbor Estuary to area students in New Jersey. From sea squirts, sand sharks and robin fish to black porgies, blue claw crabs, and a skate, students in both Union and Elizabeth, N.J. observed habitat from their local watershed through clear tanks filled with harbor water and critters.

On Sept. 23, the Corps set up the educational tanks for National Water Day in Union, N.J. Four hundred local elementary students joined nearly 50,000 others nationwide to celebrate Make a Splash with Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), the largest water education day in the nation.

Corps biologists, Bonnie Hulkower, Planning, and Tom Wyche, Operations, along with Debra Smith, PPMD, spoke to elementary school students rotating through their stations. The team provided an overview of the local estuary and Hulkower provided a hands-on lesson for the students observing the tanks.

Wyche, who has supported these types of events the past three years, believes many students are interested in, or are becoming interested in the estuary world as well as the marine environments around them.

“The Corps should continue to present fascinating examples of that world to the students,” said Wyche. “This positive exposure to that interest can only be beneficial to them and to the environment around us. Personally, I like participating in these events because it allows me to assist firsthand in their developing interest of the environment. I know there is interest because of the many questions that I am asked of what we present.”

According to Wyche, students are interested in the critters in the tanks, where and how they were captured and their size range, foods they like to eat and more.

The following week, on Sept. 30, the Corps observed National Estuary Day 2005 in Elizabeth, N.J. with more than 200 local high school and university students. The third annual event took place in the Peterstown Center and provided exhibits relating to the New York and New Jersey Harbor Estuary. The U.S. Coast Guard, Kean University, the New York/New Jersey Baykeeper and the Harbor Estuary Program’s New Jersey Sea Grant helped students understand their estuary and why it is important to protect it.

(continued on page 17)



Photos: Peter Shugert

Bonnie Hulkower showcases habitat in New York and New Jersey harbor estuary to Elizabeth High School students.



Tom Wyche helps Caldwell elementary school students sift through creatures in a touch tank.

District community events *(continued from page 16)*

“The reason why this process was so successful is because for more than three years the Corps has made an active working partnership resulting in substantial inter-agency relationships that have created sustaining, complementary environmental education and stewardship programs for the Arthur Kill/Elizabeth River watershed communities,” said Michelle McBean, CEO of Future City Inc., the non-profit organization that sponsors Estuary Day.

At the Army Corps station, students touched and viewed creatures such as sea squirts and hermit crabs, and viewed a tank with a sand shark, and variety of habitat that were fished out of the estuary by Corps employees the day prior. They also were able to speak with Hulkower, Smith, Wyche and Harold Hawkins, of harbor branch and Peter Shugert in public affairs, about the importance of the habitat in the estuary.

“The estuary event was a great day for the stu-

dents who came out to Peterstown Community Center. The students seemed impressed with what the agencies were presenting and they learned from each station, general awareness of what they should be doing to protect the environment,” said Smith. “I believe they walked away realizing how pollution has damaged our environment and that they are future stewards to change and establish a healthier environment. The students seemed to understand that what we do on land can affect the water and they gained a greater knowledge of our ecosystem.”

At other stations, students were also able to perform water quality testing, learn about the life of the oyster, and see how pollution—from oil spills to trash—affects the habitat and overall health of the ecosystem.

The Corps plans to bring the mobile exhibit to other community events and has already begun planning for Earth Day 2006.

Last load of material leaves Long Island Superfund site

In October the New York District joined New York state and local officials to celebrate the departure of the last truckload of radioactive material from the Li Tungsten Superfund site in Glen Cove, Long Island, N.Y. The event was attended by Federal, State and local officials as well as local environmental groups.

Corps personnel who attended the milestone were Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge, deputy district engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District; Shewen Bian, construction division, eastern residency office; JoAnne Castagna, programs and project management division; Ron Conetta, construction division, eastern residency office; Richard Dabal, physical scientist, environmental analysis branch, planning division; and Richard Gajdek, project manager, programs and project management Division.

“The Corps played a major role in the clean-up effort by overseeing the construction and off-site removal of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material and metal contaminated soil,” said Richard Gajdek, project manager.

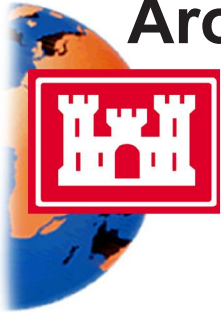
“The community will re-develop the site to be part of a new waterfront community.” The community has plans for the site to be part of a new waterfront community.



Photo: JoAnne Castagna

Federal, State and local officials give a thumbs up as the last truckload of radioactive material is carted off from the Li Tungsten Superfund site on Long Island, N.Y. (l-r) Donald Monti, Glen Isle; Michael Posillico, Glen Isle; Charles Lavine, N.Y. State assemblyman and former city council member; Joseph Gioino, council member; Thomas Suozzi, Nassau County Executive; Tony Jiminez, city council member; Mary Ann Holzkamp, Mayor City of Glen Cove; Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge, deputy district engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District; Joan Meehan, city council member; George Pavlou, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Dian Yaturo, Nassau County legislator; Timothy Tenke, city council member; and Nicholas DiLeo, candidate for city council.

Around the Region



North Atlantic Division under new leadership

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Chief of Engineers passes the flag to Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli as he assumes command of the Corps' North Atlantic Division Aug. 1. Grisoli replaces Brig. Gen. Merdith W. B. "Bo" Temple who is now the Director of Military Construction at Headquarters, USACE. Grisoli was formerly the commander and division engineer of the Corps' Northwestern Division in Portland, Ore.

The North Atlantic Division is one of eight permanent Corps regional business centers, and is responsible for six districts located in Concord, MA); New York; Philadelphia; Baltimore; Norfolk, Va.; and Germany.



Photo: Pete Noy

Division Commander oversees harbor dredging operations



Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli, commander, North Atlantic Division, and Col. Richard J. Polo Jun., Commander New York District, along with a group of New York District professionals spent an afternoon aboard a dredge observing dredging operations firsthand in the New York Harbor.

As the nation's third largest container port, the existing channel is being dredged to accommodate modern-day containerships. The port indirectly and directly supports over 225,000 jobs in the New York and New Jersey area and provides consumer goods.

McFarland visits the Big Apple

Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., (center) commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District flanked by Army officers on deck aboard the *Hocking* as the Corps' large vessel *McFarland* steams into the New York Harbor making a summer visit to the Big Apple.



Photo: James Arnedio

District lauded by Transportation Secretary

In September New York District personnel were honored with Department of Transportation awards for their participation in the evacuation of personnel from Manhattan during the terrorist attacks on New York City, Sept. 11, 2001.

Norman Y. Mineta, U.S. Secretary of the Department of Transportation was the keynote speaker at the ceremony held on the fourth anniversary of 9-11.

The citation read: “On the morning of September 11, 2001, immediately following the attack on the World Trade Center, 7 USACE vessels and one EPA vessel moored at Caven Point marine terminal in Jersey City, New Jersey responded to largest waterborne evacuation in United States history.

“Without full knowledge of the risks involved, the crews of the USACE vessels began evacuating WTC victims from North and South Cove, and along the Battery Park seawall in Lower Manhattan. The victims were safely embarked and transported to triage units located in Morris Canal, Ellis Island, and Exchange Place in Jersey City. Many victims were injured, in shock, and most were covered with dust. On the return trips from New Jersey, the vessels transported firemen, policemen, emergency services members, and medical personnel back to ground zero.

“As the day progressed, the vessels coordinated their rescue and evacuation efforts with the Coast Guard Cutter *ADAK*, the Coast Guard’s On Scene Commander. As the number of victims from ground zero began to diminish, the USACE vessels expanded their rescue efforts to numerous evacuation points along the Manhat-

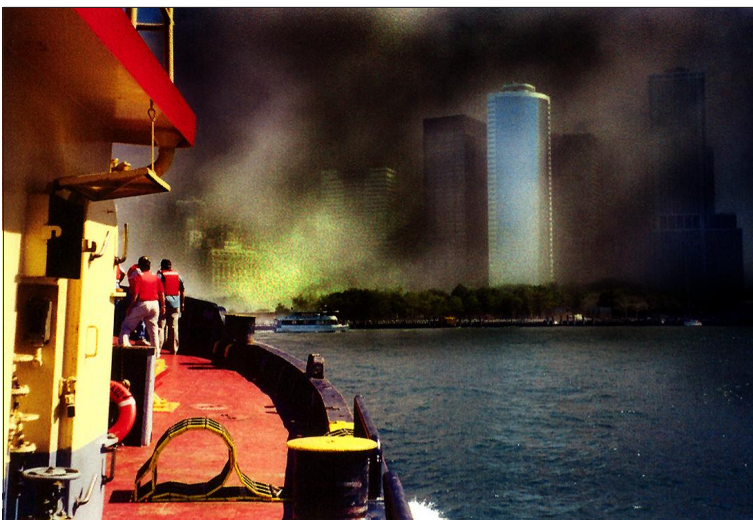


Rich Gaudreau, Alan Dorfman and Tim LaFontaine of New York District Operations and the crews of various vessels at the awards ceremony.

tan waterfront As the USACE vessels *HATTON*, *HOCKING*, *HUDSON*, *NYSBI*, and *CLEAN WATERS* continued the evacuation and logistic runs between New Jersey and ground zero, the vessels *HAYWARD*, *GELBERMAN* and *DRIFTMASTER* with their lift capabilities began to load and transport critical supplies such as forklifts, respirators, shovels, cutting equipment, and rescue personnel and gear between staging areas in Jersey City and ground zero.

“These vessels also supplied isolated New York City fireboats and fire trucks with desperately needed diesel fuel allowing the firefighting operation to continue. The vessels continued their efforts throughout the night on September 11.

“In the weeks and months that followed September 11, the USACE vessels continued around the clock support in the recovery operation at ground zero. This included continued materiel support of FDNY and the rescue /recovery effort, ferrying OEM and FEMA personnel, and support of the Pier 25 emergency dredging operation.”



The Corps vessel *HAYWARD* on the Hudson River off downtown Manhattan. The Hayward crew transported stranded personnel Sept. 11, 2001.

Calling all District veterans:

Mark Burlas, an Army veteran in New York District has generated interest in starting a New York District veterans group. Interested veterans of all uniformed services, including reservists, and active duty military, should contact Mark Burlas via email at *mark h. burlas @ usace.army.mil*

Security Office reminder:

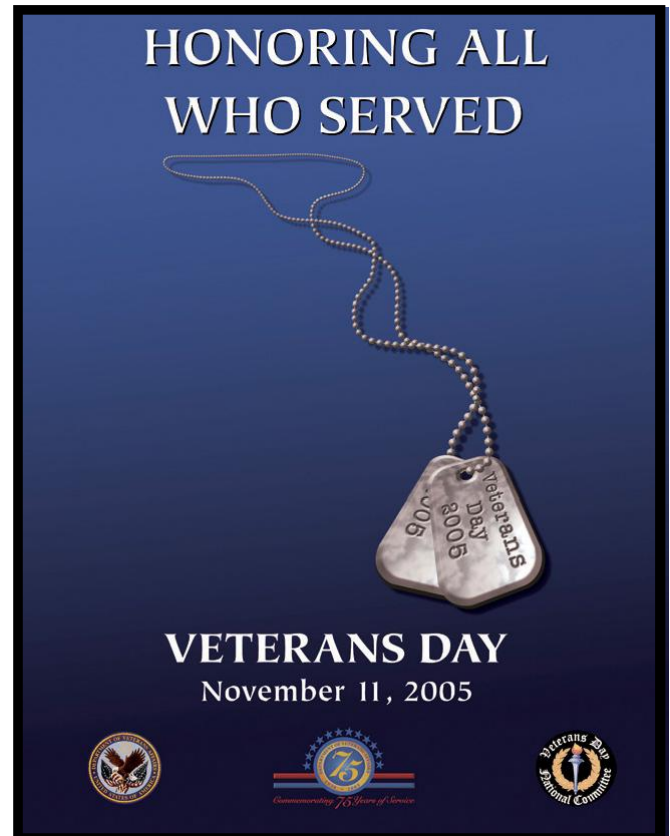
Personnel planning to travel overseas on TDY need to obtain a country clearance 30 days in advance of traveling. Assistance in obtaining a country clearance should be obtained from Tyra McManus at (917) 790-8673.

Additionally, all personnel traveling overseas on official duties need to complete anti-terrorism training. This can be accomplished by going on line at:

<http://at-awareness.org/> and using the password: AWARE.

You will need to print a copy of your training certificate when you complete the training.

Any questions concerning travel should be directed to the security office at (917) 790-8010.



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

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Address Correction Requested