

The New York District Times



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

New survey vessel to join District fleet

The Corps' newest vessel, the *Moritz* was launched in Seattle, Wash. in April 2003, and is scheduled to join the New York District fleet this fall.

Crewed by civilian mariners, the *Moritz* will operate from Caven Point, N.J. She is a catamaran survey vessel and will replace the survey vessel *Hatton*, according to Alan Dorfman, chief Physical Support Branch, Operations Division. The *Moritz* will be shipped to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in July. From there she will steam up the Atlantic coast in August to her new dock in Caven Point and join the District fleet.

The *Moritz* underwent sea trials in the Seattle area in mid-May. The vessel's hull-mounted sonar systems were tested, and she passed with flying colors, performing at optimum level.

The *Moritz* is 58 feet long, with a beam of 18 feet, 6 inches. She displaces 30 tons, and can sustain speeds up to 30 knots.



(Photos courtesy of Gregory Lee)

The *Moritz* as she was being launched April 19, 2003, in Seattle shows the 2x 8101 sonar hull installs. The vessel underwent sea trials in May.



The *Moritz* pierside in Washington. The vessel is 58 feet in length, with a beam of 18 feet, six inches, displaces approximately 30 tons, and can sustain speeds of up to 30 knots.

The vessel is named in honor of Kurt L. Moritz who was born in Tangerhutte, Germany, March 2, 1920. He immigrated to the United States in 1923 and was naturalized June 4, 1932.

Kurt L. Moritz attended New York State Merchant Marine Academy and graduated from the deck department in 1941. In 1942 he enlisted in the Army and served as a mate aboard the Army vessel *Mayback* in the Army's Mine Planter Service Division. He was awarded the American Campaign and World War II Victory Medals. Moritz was discharged from the regular Army June 2, 1946, and joined the Army's Transport Service where he served as a ship's officer on various Army vessels until joining the Corps of Engineers in 1950.

On August 4, 1977, Moritz retired from the Corps after a 27-year career. He died November 17, 1988. Robert K. Moritz, the son of Kurt Moritz, is currently a supply technician with the Physical Support Branch at Caven Point.



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New York District Times

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

April-May 2003

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9-11-01



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New York District

In and around the New York Harbor Projects gain public and media attention

The New York District is responsible for the Corps' water navigation including New York Harbor and Long Island. Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer, also holds the title of Supervisor of the New York Harbor. In this capacity he is continuously involved in the various important water navigation projects in and around the port.

Getting the news out. On the deck of the Corps vessel *Hocking* May 13, 2003, a press conference was held while underway off the coast of Staten Island.

Col. John B. O'Dowd, John Tavolaro of Operations, and Representative Vito J. Fossella, Jr., 13th Congressional District, announced the completion of maintenance dredging of the Great Kills Harbor federal navigation channel, Staten Island.



Col. O'Dowd was also interviewed aboard the Corps vessel *Driftmaster* earlier in the year about the success and importance of dredging operations in the New York Harbor.

Brig. Gen. Merdith W.B. Temple, Commander, North Atlantic Division (left) and Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer observing dredging operations during a winter harbor inspection in the port.



Photos: Peter Shugert

Welcome home

Corps' engineer support team returns from deployment

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Forward Engineer Support Team returned safely from Turkey in April following months of participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The team consisted of members from New York and Philadelphia districts. While deployed, they provided technical engineering assistance in the areas of master planning, design, project management, and quality assurance to the 18th Engineer Brigade (Theater Army) in support of Armed Forces Turkey, ARFOR-T.

The ARFOR-T mission involved establishing a 700-mile line of communication to accommodate the movement of the an Army infantry division into Iraq.

"The efforts of the team proved to be invaluable to our armed forces in the successful accomplishment of the mission," said Maj. Don Pincus, of New York District.



(Photo courtesy of Maj. Don Pincus)

The men of the Corps' Forward Engineer Support Team while deployed to Turkey (l-r) Andrew Smith, N.Y.; Philip Breen, Philadelphia.; Maj. Don Pincus, N.Y.; Lanier Drake, Philadelphia.; William Matias, N.Y.; John Kenny, N.Y.; Emiliano Cruz, Philadelphia.; Mark Kucera, N.Y.; and Maj. Dave Chestnut, N.Y.

Chief of Engineers dines with future of the Corps



Photo Randall Wagner, HQ USACE

During Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers' visit to New York District April 16, he met with District interns who had the opportunity to sit with the Chief and ask questions over lunch. Flowers spoke about their experiences while in the intern program and about career opportunities.

"I think it was interesting how the general asked for our opinions about the Corps," said intern Christopher Myers. "He also seemed very interested in our answers."

"He was very pleasant and I was impressed that he chose to have his lunch with us. To me that really means something. It shows Corps' commitment to the intern program," added intern Rifat Salim.



Significant Signings

Photos: Francis Delfino



Lake Montauk Harbor FCSA

The Lake Montauk Harbor FCSA was signed by Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer in March. It is a multi-purpose feasibility study for navigation and shore protection. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is the study sponsor, and is cost-sharing the study with the Corps. (l-r) Ellen Simon, Paul Sabalis, Col. John O'Dowd (seated), Roman G. Rakoczy, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and William Slezak.



Photo: Vince Elias

Hudson River PCA

Construction began in May following a February signing by Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer of a project cooperation agreement for the Hudson River emergency streambank restoration project in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The project sponsor is Dutchess County, and was authorized under section 14 of the Continuing Authorities Program.

(l-r) Stanley Nuremburg, Paul Sabalis, Karl Ahlen, and Ellen Simon were present during the signing by Col. O'Dowd (seated).

LAKE MONTAUK HARBOR FCSA TEAM

Johnny Chan, John Chew, Gennaro Cimmino, Stuart Chase, Thomas Dannemann, Marty Goff, Cliff Jones, Richard Kiss, Stanley Nuremburg, Thomas Pfeifer, George Perlmutter, Christopher Ricciardi, Howard Ruben, Ellen Simon, Habib Soltani, Richard Kiss, David Yang, and Steven Yandrich.

The scoop on scoping

The Millstone River Basin study team held a public scoping meeting in Manville to inform the community about the study and to obtain public input.

The 238-square-mile Millstone River Basin is located in north-central New Jersey and includes the Millstone River and its major tributaries. The basin has a history of flooding, including events during Hurricane Gloria, 1985, and Hurricane Floyd, 1999. Both hurricanes were tropical storms when they reached the Millstone River Basin.



John O'Connor of New York District at the microphone, addresses a concerned group of people at a scoping meeting in New Jersey.

District Initiatives

Speaker creates better understanding at annual ethnic observance

This year's Black History Month observance featured a talk by Andrew P. Jackson who also goes by his African name of Sekou Molefi Baako. He spoke about Black History, cultural awareness and achievements by African Americans. Jackson is the executive director of the Langston Hughes community library and cultural center in Queens.

At the program's conclusion, Lt. Col. Douglas Sarver, Deputy Commander presented Jackson with a New York District coin and certificate of appreciation. Victoria Gross of EEO arranged this year's program.



(l-r) Lt. Col. Douglas Sarver, Deputy Commander; Andrew Jackson, guest speakers; and Victoria Gross, of EEO, at the Black History Month observance.

(Photo: George Lamboy)

Corps assists with super crane navigation clearance



Photo: Joe Myers

All Clear -- The ship *Zhen-Hua* prepares to pass under the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge between Brooklyn and Staten Island, NY.

Following a two-month trek half way around the world, three huge cranes arrived in the New York Harbor in early January from China.

As part of the first phase of wharf facilities upgrade, APM Terminals North America transported three ZPMC container cranes 6,847 miles from Shanghai to berth 88 in the port.

The vibrant painted red, white, and blue cranes were transported via the ship *Zhen-Hua* and took 60 days to reach New York.

The Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies were instrumental in navigating the cranes through the harbor and into the Port, particularly monitoring the clearance under two area suspension bridges.

Quick-acting boat crew rescues drowning canine

Good news is never too old especially when performing a rescue or saving a life. Crewmembers of the District vessel *Gelberman* spotted a dog in the water off of Caven Point, N.J. in early January. Walter Grauling, skipper of the vessel *Hatton*, and Billy Fort, deckhand on the vessel *Dobrin* also saw the dog paddling in the water.

Grauling immediately reved up the engine of the *Hatton*. Liz Finn, assistant skipper of the *Gelberman* and Bill Fort hustled aboard. The *Hatton* proceeded to the area. A small private survey boat was also underway nearby.

The deck height of the *Hatton* initially hindered the rescue. Finn and Fort boarded the small survey boat and pulled the dog out of the icy water. They proceeded to the *Gelberman* where the dog was taken aboard, dried off, and given fresh water. The dog was taken by the Jersey City Police Department Emergency Services Unit.

The rescue story received TV, radio and print news coverage, and as a result was adopted by a compassionate pet lover in less than a week.



Photo: Alan Dorfman

The dog was kept warm by his rescuers aboard the vessel *Hatton* until taken by the Jersey City Police Department Emergency Services Unit.

Broadway booth gets a boost

Putting recruits into the military through advertising is one successful method used by the Armed Forces.

At the center of the crossroads of the world in Times Square, New York is the location of the nation's most famous military recruiting station.

On May 12 New York District installed a new computer-operated state-of-the-art digital video screen on the south side of the Times Square recruiting station. The screen takes up almost half of the station's south exterior and will convey text and photo images both day and night.



Photo: Francis Delfino

Fully operational. A new computer-operated digital video screen now enhances the exterior of the U.S. Armed Forces Recruiting Station at Times Square.

The video screen was installed and successfully tested in April. Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer was on hand as the power was generated at the inaugural lighting event.

Home to Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps recruiters, the station, referred to as "the booth," is situated on a traffic island above a subway line on Broadway. The station is used to interview and test applicants who volunteer to serve in uniform.

Rich Mandra is the project manager. The station is less than five years old and built of steel and glass. The station is the single most successful walk in station in the country and plays an important role in the recruiting effort in New York.

District softball team wins season opener

The 2003 season began in April for New York District's softball team with a lopsided win fused by a tremendous amount of confidence. Veteran coach Frank Verga heads a very optimistic team consisting of veteran players and new talent alike who signed up this Spring.

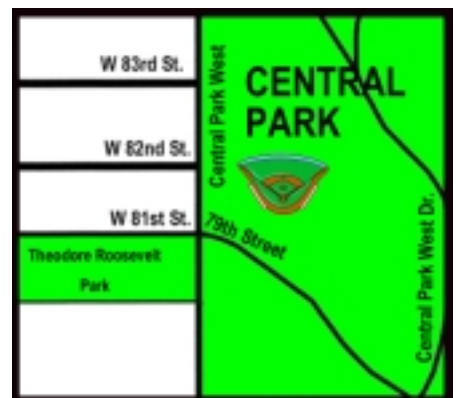
Everyone is invited to cheer on the team. All games are played in Central Park weekly at 5:30 p.m.



Games are played at Central park. Enter Hecksher ballfields at 63rd Street and the Great Lawn ballfields at 81st Street.

Catch the action at home plate

| Game Day | Opponent/Field |
|----------------------|--|
| Mon. June 2 | Meyer, Strong and Jones, Hecksher Field 6 |
| Mon. June 9 | at Mancini and Duffy, Hecksher Field 6 |
| Fri. June 20 | Flack and Kurtz, Great Lawn Field 5 |
| Tues. June 24 | Syska and Hennessy, Hecksher Field 6 |
| Mon. June 30 | at Flack and Kurtz, Hecksher Field 6 |
| Mon. July 7 | at Meyer, Strong and Jones, Hecksher Field 1 |
| Tues. July 22 | Parsons Brinkerhoff, Hecksher Field 1 |



District archaeologists investigate prehistoric site

By John Killeen, archaeologist

On an October afternoon, 10 New York District archaeologists journeyed into the wetlands of Port Monmouth, N.J., to evaluate a prehistoric site discovered in 1998 by Corps archaeologists. Kirsten Davis, Jeffrey Fry, Lynn Rakos, Christopher Ricciardi, Jenine Gallo, Gail Woolley, Rafal Turek, Carissa DeRooy, and Alek Petersen evaluated the site near the levee footprint on the Port Monmouth combined flood control and shore protection feasibility study project.

“The site is important because it is one of three sites known this close to the Raritan/Sandy Hook bayshore,” said Christopher Ricciardi. “The evaluation was agreed to be necessary by New York District and the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.”

The evaluation determined the size, type and date of the site. Size determination is made by excavating regularly spaced holes around the site of initial discovery until the artifact recovery drops off to zero in all directions.

“When this is accomplished you map the grid of holes that you have produced and this is the site boundary,” said Ricciardi.

The age of the site will be determined by the ceramic pottery discovered at the site dated to the

Woodland period (circa 1000 BC – AD 1600). This is when pottery was first produced by Native Americans. To verify this date two pottery pieces were sent to the University of Washington for a process called thermoluminescence. The age determination will be available during the Spring 2003.

The site type is determined by the location, the number and types of artifacts discovered. We have found a resource procurement hunting/gathering site. It was determined that this type of site is a debitage due to the number of artifacts found. Debitage is lithic stone flakes that are the product of making and maintaining sharpening stone tools such as arrowheads, scrapers and knife blades. On resource procurement sites, we normally don't find more than one or two arrowheads, scrapers or knives. On more permanent habitation sites the artifacts would have included these and other types of artifacts.

Also discovered was that the site is mainly outside the proposed levee footprint and avoidable.

The analysis process is ongoing and the group is creating maps and writing the evaluation report and recommendations coordinated with the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office.



Interns Rafal Turek and Carissa DeRooy (above) and John Killeen, project archaeologist, and intern Kirsten Davis (right) excavating the prehistoric site at Port Monmouth, N.J. The prehistoric site was discovered in 1998 by Corps archaeologists



Historic bridge is returned to its birthplace

By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD

The Doty Road Bridge has carried vehicles over New Jersey's Ramapo River for over a century.

The bridge was located where New York District's Ramapo River at Oakland Flood Control Project is underway. Several years ago it was determined by project managers that the bridge would be an obstruction during floods and that it should be removed. The New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office stated that something needed to be done with the bridge in terms of mitigation because it is a cultural resource and deemed eligible for being listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.

Lynn Rakos, a District archaeologist, took the lead in finding a home for the bridge, particularly its trusses. The rest of the bridge was weather-worn and had deteriorated. "Our goal was to provide it to a non-profit, at no charge and to make sure it would still be accessible to the public," said Rakos.

Rakos marketed the trusses nationwide. She contacted various historical societies, distributed material about the availability to park managers and engineers, and placed an advertisement in a magazine. As a result, New York District received numerous calls from a wide range of individuals who expressed an interest in the bridge. "Engineering professors, interested in the bridge's history, said they wanted a piece of the truss. Another person offered to place it by a stream on his ranch in North Dakota!" exclaimed Rakos.



Lynn Rakos, archaeologist, took the lead in finding a home for the bridge, particularly its trusses.



The bridge was disassembled and trucked from Oakland Borough, N.J. to Phoenixville, Pa. where it was crafted over a century ago.

New York District recently found a home for the bridge's trusses in Phoenixville, Pa., where the bridge was originally assembled and where it will continue to serve the public in a local public park. The plans for the park include walking and biking trails along a creek and a bridge will be constructed over the creek that will connect the park to the trails. The Doty Road Bridge trusses will be placed alongside the bridge as a decorative element.

"The bridge was named after the Doty family, early settlers in Oakland Borough, Bergen County, N.J. The original bridge was 80 feet long and constructed in 1891 and spanned the Ramapo River in an area traditionally referred to as the ponds," said Rakos.

The Phoenixville Area Economic Development Corporation purchased the truss for a symbolic dollar after several years of locating a home in December 2002.



"We sent the bridge home in its dotage," said Rakos. She adds, "It is unique that bridges get moved. This doesn't happen too often. With the enthusiasm of the PAEDCO, I have confidence it will be a happy ending."

Ecosystem restoration promotes understanding

By Josephine Axt, Ph.D.

Environmental Analysis Branch, Planning Division

As part of the Corps' commitment to public involvement, Chris Ricciardi, a District archaeologist, recently made a presentation to students at Curtis Junior High School in Brooklyn. The presentation focused on the cultural history and the Corps' proposed restoration project at Gerritsen Creek, N.Y.

Ricciardi's one-hour presentation included slides of visual images dating to the turn of the twentieth century and previous archaeological excavations. The more recent research showed the various stages of the modern history of Gerritsen's Creek, including how it used to extend approximately eight blocks further north than its current ending point at Avenue U in Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Students were particularly interested in the life of the Native Americans, the Canarsee," said Ricciardi. "Most students knew the name from the area of Kings County that is named Canarsee, but few realized it came from the local group living in Gerritsen's Creek."

The students were also interested to know that Marine Park Junior High School, which although situated in Marine Park is outside the project area, was constructed on top of the largest Native American village in Kings County.

Due to the enthusiasm with which the presentation was received, the assistant vice principal for the school asked Ricciardi if he would make a presentation to the local school district about the District's restoration project and how the schools could tie the restoration into the schools' curriculum. Ricciardi has been in touch with several history teachers and is coordinating to arrange more discussions and cultural-history walking tours through the area.

Within the past century, the salt marsh community at Gerritsen Creek was altered by dredging and filling activities associated with the construction and maintenance of the Jamaica Bay federal navigation channel.

(continued on next page)

The Gerritsen's Creek ecosystem restoration project is conducted under Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended. Under Section 1135, the Corps is authorized to review the need for modifications to existing projects for the purpose of providing measures to improve environmental quality.

All Section 1135 projects require a non-Federal sponsor to provide 25 percent of the cost of any modification and 100 percent of the cost associated with operation and maintenance.

In its report entitled Significant Habitats and Habitat Complexes of the New York Bight Region (1999), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified Jamaica Bay in general and Gerritsen Creek in particular as coastal habitats warranting special protection in the form of preservation and restoration of habitats conducive to sustaining and expanding the region's native living resources.

The NYCDEP Jamaica Bay Watershed Management Plan recommended that existing wetland and grassland areas in Jamaica Bay be restored and protected, and invasive species (e.g., *Phragmites australis*) be controlled. The Trust for Public Land and the New York City Audubon Society also recognized the existing undeveloped wetland and upland habitats within Jamaica Bay as vital to the area's continued use by important fish and wildlife species.



Ecosystem restoration (cont'd)

New York District is completing an environmental assessment and ecosystem restoration report for restoring over 35 acres of tidal salt marsh, tidal creeks and ponds, and maritime grassland along Gerritsen Creek.

Historical records indicate that the Gerritsen Creek area suffered approximately the same 75 percent wetland loss that Jamaica Bay, Queens has been reported to have experienced. In the early 1900's, the salt marshes were part of extensive coastal wetlands of Jamaica Bay, renowned for an abundance and diversity of shellfish. Rivaling its ecological importance for shellfish, was its role as a nursery and feeding grounds for countless species of birds and fish.

"While investigating the past and current ecological functions of the area, the District also studied the cultural resources. The Gerritsen Creek area has a rich cultural history dating back to the year 1000. The Canarsee Native American tribe and Dutch and English settlers used the area as a food source. Native Ameri-

cans also produced "wampum," which is currency made from oyster shells," said Ricciardi.

The existing Gerritsen's Creek site is an approximately 67-acre site located within a highly urban area. Although habitat alteration and fragmentation have reduced the ecological value of the remaining tracts of wetland acreage, the site has great potential for ecological restoration. The selected restoration design restores tidal flow in several areas around the site, creates a native grassland meadow in adjacent upland areas, and promotes overall ecological diversity while preserving the desirable natural areas and passive recreation uses that currently exist on site.

Project Biologist Melissa Alvarez and Project Manager Dan Falt conducted a public meeting and walking tour of the site in December 2002, along with the project's non-Federal sponsor the Natural Resources Group of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Public input and response to the project was positive. Construction is currently estimated for Spring 2004.

30 second commercial



Rifat Salim

Rifat Salim, is an intern in Engineering. Salim graduated from the City College of New York in 2000 with a masters degree in electrical engineering. Recently she visited CCNY and spoke to students about her experiences as an intern with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Federal Career Intern Program, one of several employment programs the Corps offers to college graduates and students majoring in engineering and the sciences.

CCNY's School of Engineering has approximately 2,500 students majoring in engineering each year. In 2002, 22.8 percent of the college's master's graduates were engineering majors.

The Corps offers graduates security that private industry can't offer and an opportunity to use their engineering degree and apply what they went to school for.

"I love my job with the Corps of Engineers. As an intern I am given challenging, real-life projects that really help people and I get paid for it too!" said Rifat Salim, Corps intern and electrical engineering graduate of the City College of New York.



New York City establishes city services 311 help line



A new phone number was established at New York City Hall for citizens seeking non-emergency information. The number is 311. Within the five boroughs of New York City, the 311 service center phone number was created for residents to get non-emergency services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The 311 number can also be accessed outside of New York City by dialing (212) NEW YORK. Some examples of non-emergency services: noise complaints; obstructed driveways; library operating hours; reporting street potholes, street lights needing repair; garbage collection.



Around New York District

District Engineer visits Boy Scouts

In April, Col. John O'Dowd, District Engineer met with members of the Boy Scouts Troop 310, of the Fort Hamilton Army post. O'Dowd conducted a question and answer period and gave an overview of the mission of the District and the Corps.

The mission of the scouting program is to help young people grow into capable, responsible, and well-rounded citizens.



(NAN Photo)



(Photo: Vince Elias)

District donates computers to church school

Michael Murphy of Logistics (left) oversees the transfer of eight used Corps computers donated March 5, to the Church of Lord Jesus Christ Day Care School on Long Island.

Bishop E. Winningham of the school looks on, as Marco Rivera of Logistics carefully stacks them on a hand truck for transfer.

Bishop Winningham was grateful for the donation which will help the students.

Corporate Challengers compete in annual race

Over 26 New York District runners, joggers, walkers, and fun-seekers crossed the finish line during the Corporate Challenge run held May 13, 2003. Joe Seebode, an avid runner, sponsored District participation.

All District participants completed the 3.5 mile run along a path through Central Park and received a commemorative T-shirt. The Corporate Challenge promotes exercise and friendly competition among New York area businesses and organizations.



(Photo: Peter Shugert)

Annual Green Brook luncheon held in New Jersey

Members of New York District celebrated its success and charted its future at a legislative luncheon held in April chaired by the Green Brook Flood Control Commission.

District attendees included Col. John O'Dowd, Bill Slezak, Joseph Forcina, JoAnne Castagna and Felix Chevere.

The annual luncheon allowed the Green Brook Flood Control Project team members, including the Corps, Commission, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and municipal, county, and state representatives, to gather in an informal setting and celebrate project accomplishments and discuss future work.



(Photo courtesy of JoAnne Castagna)

Transactions



Another turnover in the leadership at New York District will occur in June when Lt. Col. Douglas Sarver, Deputy Commander departs the Big Apple for duty in the nation's heartland in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Sarver has been the Deputy Commander since arriving in January 2001 and will leave some very big shoes to fill.

Lt. Col. Kurt G. Hoffman will be the new Deputy District Engineer and Sarver's successor. He now commands the Mission Support Battalion at Fort Knox, Ky.

"A lot has transpired over the past two years," said Sarver. Sarver's next assignment will be Executive Officer, Battle Command Training Program.

May Retirements



Frank Taylor of Engineering is all smiles as he holds his civilian retirement identification card.



Yung Lee of Engineering holds a District coin and retirement certificate presented to him on his last day in New York District.

USACE Gold Coin recipients

Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers presented the following District employees with gold coins for their sustained superior performances.

- Karl Ahlen, Planning Division
- Ronald Brattain, Planning Division
- Jannie Butler, Resource Management
- James Cannon, Regulatory Branch
- Jerry Caspe, Engineering Division
- JoAnne Castagna, PPMD
- Stuart Chase, Engineering Division
- Maxine Colden, Real Estate Division
- Peter DeStefano, Construction Division
- Soon Lew, Operations Division
- Abraham Portalatin, Safety Office
- Edward Sim, Fort Drum, PPMD
- Shaukat Syed, Contracting Division
- Delores Ward, Construction Division



The Chief of Engineers
USACE Gold Coins



Union President elected

Vanessa E. Davis was recently elected as President of the I.F.P.T.E. Local 98 Union.

Engineering changes

Engineering Division acquires new Chiefs
Bob Gerrits, Chief, Engineering Management Branch
Thomas Dannemann, Chief, Design Branch.

Plaudits



Frank Santomauro



Joseph Vietri

A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded by Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer to Frank Santomauro, Chief, Planning Division and Joseph Vietri, Assistant Chief, Planning Division, for providing quality leadership training to over 250 Department of the Army personnel as Leadership, Education and Development course facilitators.

Federal Executive Board awards bestowed on District employees

Madonna Camishion

Secretary of the Year

Gus Sierra Gonzalez

Combined Federal Campaign

Thomas Hodson

Distinguished Government Service

Neal Kolb

Team Leader

David Leach

Distinguished Executive

Randy Williams

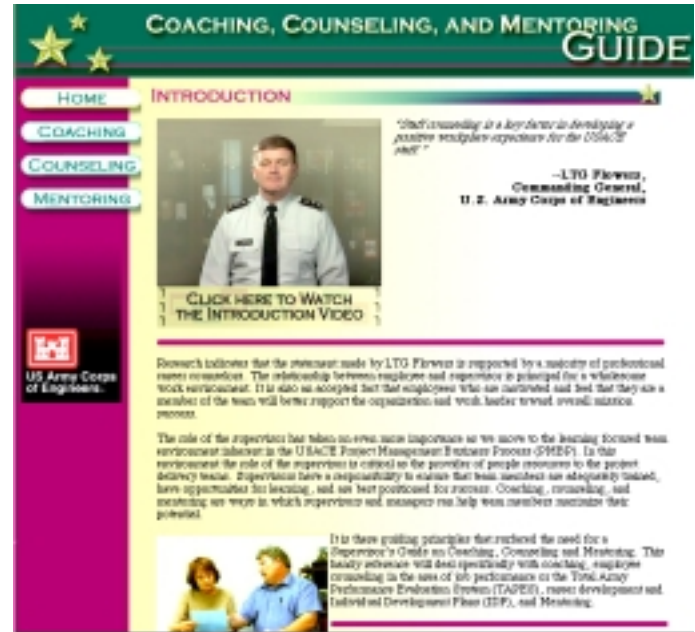
Direct Service

Website functions as a supervisor guide

The HQ USACE Human Resources Directorate developed a comprehensive guide available on line for coaching, counseling and mentoring. The guide is a tool that provides information and places emphasis on coaching, counseling and mentoring -- all vital to developing employees and creating a positive work-place.

This will assist the Corps vision as the world's premier public engineering organization as it responds to the Nation's needs in peace and war.

It provides an overview of each of these processes and gives practical 'how to' tips. It does not establish new requirements, but links to regulations that define current requirements, including the Total Army Performance Evaluation System and Individual Development Plan. The guide serves as a useful refresher for experienced supervisors; a comprehensive tutorial for new supervisors; and a resource tool for all employees. In the PMBP environment, everyone may serve in a leadership or coaching role at one time or another.



Discussions are a catalyst for PMBP transformation

Small group discussions are an invaluable way of learning about the Project Management Business Process.

New York District moved forward with the implementation of PMBP in April by training employees to be facilitators for the small group discussion portion of the PMBP employee training.

"The PMBP is about people working together in teams including the customer and together creating plans to accomplish the goals of the project," said Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer.

"Employees received training to become PMBP small group discussion facilitators and found it to be useful," said JoAnne Castagna, team facilitator.



Attendees interact with PMBP facilitator JoAnne Castagna (second from right) during a small group discussion on the interactive, multi-media PMBP CD curriculum on the program process.



Volunteers support Earth Day activities



River debris removed in New Jersey

On Saturday, May 3 employees of New York District participated in an environmental clean-up of the North Branch of the Rahway River in Winfield Park and Clark, N.J. The event was organized by St. John the Apostle Cub Scout Pack 30. Joe Seebode, District Harbor Program Manager and a leader with Cub Scout Pack Pack 30, developed the logistics for this very successful effort.



New York District Photo

Earth Day volunteers (l-r) Peter Shugert; Katie O'Dowd; Col. John O'Dowd; Joe Seebode, son Joseph Seebode; John O'Connor and daughters, Molly, and Bridget.

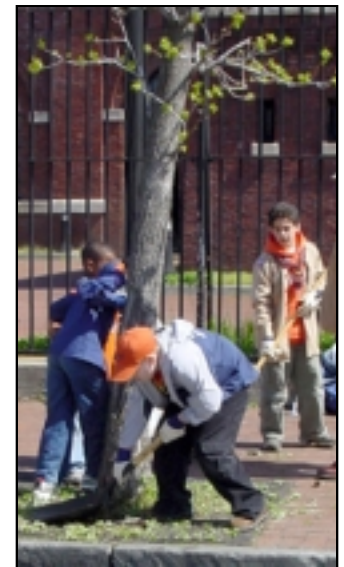
Over 125 volunteers from the District and the community participated, including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, fishermen, local activists and citizens. Sponsors came through with snacks and refreshments. There were coloring books, posters and T-shirt giveaways for the participants. Over a one-mile stretch of the river through Rahway River Park was cleaned up. "Everyone left feeling they made a positive impact on their community," said Peter Shugert, Chief, Public Affairs.

Volunteers plant trees along Brooklyn canal

With gloves, shovels, gloves and potting soil, more than 30 community members, the District Engineer, District employees and their family members rolled up their sleeves and dedicated part of their weekend to cleaning up the streets and planting trees and shrubs along the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, NY.

"The Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation, a neighborhood preservation non-profit group that just celebrated its 25th anniversary, and New York District teamed together to organize the event for the local Brooklynites," said Carolyn Vadino of Harbor Programs Branch.

"It was an excellent day for an event like this and any time the Army Corps can give back to a community where we live and work makes participating so much more satisfying," said Col. John B. O'Dowd, New York District Engineer.



Children pitched in and planted flowers along the streets of the Gowanus Canal.

Corps sound environmental operating principles used on Staten Island

Recently, the O & M program of New York District completed maintenance dredging of the Great Kills Harbor Channel in Staten Island, NY.

"In order to be good environmental stewards, the O & M program is supporting the efforts of the National Park Service to restore native maritime grasslands at Great Kills Harbor Park, part of the Gateway National Recreation Area," said Jodi M. McDonald, project manager, Operations Division.

"We are providing money for NPS to use to purchase plants, and fencing and signage to protect newly planted areas and to educate the public."

New York District Operations Division, in conjunction with the NPS and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be planting selected areas in the park in June.

Carolyn Vadino of Harbor Programs Branch contributed to this article

District implements METL

By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD

New York District is using a proven methodology entitled Mission Essential Task List. METL has been used in the Army for 25 years, but it is new to the Corps. The methodology requires that each level of an organization, from the top down to individual employees, align their mission essential task lists, a list of tasks needed to accomplish the mission, and employee training to the overall mission of the organization.

Headquarters USACE has created its mission statement and METL, North Atlantic Division followed with its own statement, aligned with headquarters and the District created its own aligned with the North Atlantic Division. It then trickles down to individual employees.

“METL serves many purposes”, said Col. John B. O’Dowd., District Engineer. “It determines the best allocation of resources that will best meet the District’s goals – whether it be additional training or equipment, but most of all it forces a dialogue between higher and lower levels within the organization and shows employees how their roles help fulfill the mission of the District and ultimately the country.”

“METL is basically an assessment tool in which employees benefit in several ways,” said Thomas Frazier, New York District strategic planner and project manager in charge of implementing METL districtwide. “Employees with their supervisors will review the employee’s essential tasks and Individual Development Plans and make sure they are aligned with the division’s mission. They will also review the employee’s level of proficiency in carrying out these tasks and determine whether training is needed to gain proficiency and maintain it. They will also determine if the training the employee may already be receiving applies to their essential task or not.”

New York District Mission Statement

New York District, operating as a team member within the North Atlantic Division Regional Business Center and employing the Project Management Business Process, executes its water resources, military, and environmental programs; performs emergency response; and conducts contingency operations, all in support of the Nation.

New York District METL

Plan, design, construct, operate and maintain civil works facilities and infrastructure.

Plan, design, construct and support facilities and infrastructure for military and others.

Execute the regulatory program.

Conduct environmental remediation and restoration.

Respond to emergencies and contingency operations.

Provide management, real estate services, administration and logistical support for district programs and projects.



Stork Club

New member

Julian Van Thanh Nguyen,
son of Thanh Nguyen of
Information Management.

Born: May 4, 2003

Vital stats:

8.5 lbs, 20.5 inches



Security alert

Bill Kozak, Chief of Security



Beware of ATM scam to get your cash

A new scam is being used by thieves who are placing a thin clear, rigid plastic sleeve into ATM slots in order to obtain your PIN and steal your cash by using your credit card.

When a credit card is inserted into the ATM slot with the plastic sleeve inserted by a thief, the ATM is unable to read the credit card strip, and displays a message to re-enter the PIN number. Meanwhile, a thief observes you from behind as you enter your PIN number. The ATM user then thinks the ATM has captured the credit card and leaves. The thief then removes the plastic sleeve with the credit card who also has the PIN number.

Before using an ATM, run your finger along the card slot before you enter your credit card to detect if there is a plastic sleeve inserted by a thief. The sleeve has tiny prongs that protrude that the thief uses to remove from the ATM slot.

In Memoriam



Willien Cunningham of A/E selections in Engineering passed away March 8, 2003. She had over 56 years of government service with the Army except for 14 years with NASA. Cunningham began her career as a GS-2 at Fort Jay on Governors Island.

Margaret Singer, a veteran Corps employee passed away in 2002. Singer began working with the Corps when she was 17 years old and advanced in the ranks to become Chief of Logistics Management. Her former colleagues describe her as a caring, and generous person who loved working for the Corps.

Hero firefighter Michael Kiefer fund update

T-shirts are now available for \$10 in honor of the FDNY Firefighter Michael Kiefer Fund. The T-shirts are navy blue and available in five sizes with the FDNY logo on the front, and a memorial message on the reverse that reads, "Kiefer the Keeper" – "Gone but not forgotten."

All proceeds benefit the New York Firefighters burn Center Foundation.

For an order form, please contact Jenine Gallo in Planning Division, 264-0912.



Hero firefighter Michael Kiefer, the son of long-time District employee Bud Kiefer, lost his life in the line of duty while responding with his unit to the World Trade Center attacks, Sept. 11, 2001.

A Friendly Reminder from Your Security Office...

Do not process, store or transmit classified information on non-secure telecommunications systems. Official Department of Defense telecommunications systems — including telephones, fax machines, computer networks, and modems — are subject to monitoring for telecommunications security purposes at all times. Use of official DoD telecommunications systems constitutes consent to telecommunications security monitoring.



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