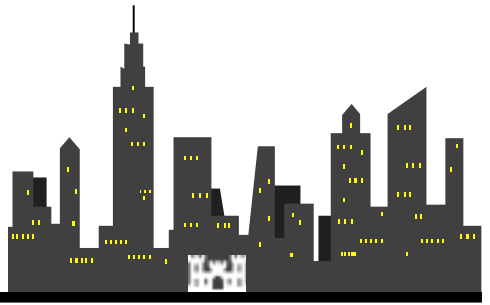


The New York District Times



Feb./Mar. 2005, Vol. 30, No.1-2

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

Corps' Fort Monmouth resident office closes its doors following decades of service

By Ken Wells and Sue Hopkins, Public Affairs

Lesson learned: Teamwork works.

Example: Closure of the Fort Monmouth Resident Office with voluntary reassignment or retirement of all personnel – no reduction-in-force. Close coordination among the resident engineer, Construction Division, Human Resources, union, and potential receiving offices throughout New York District made it happen.

“It was a true partnership,” said Diane Deptula, chief of the Human Resources Office. “The way it’s designed to work is the way it worked.”

“One of the reasons we were able to keep everyone is because we realized early on that the field office was experiencing a reduction in work,” explained Rick Alvarez, chief of the Construction Division. “So when I went to speak with the employees in November, I was ready to present them with options, instead of just placing them wherever there was an opening.”

The office had been serving Fort Monmouth and portions of southern New Jersey for decades. When the decision was made to close the office because of declining workload, several employees had already been detailed to other New York District area or project offices.

Two who had called the Fort Monmouth office home for many years opted to retire rather than transfer, but every other employee has a “new” job in New York District. Alvarez also reached out to neighboring districts in Baltimore and Philadelphia, seeing it as “a logical way to give employees more options.”

For Felix Chevere and Joe Rossano, the detail to the Green Brook Flood Control Project office became



Team leader Jerry Valade and Lt. Col. Taras J. Jemetz, area engineer, lock the door of the Fort Monmouth Resident Office. The building is closed and staff members have moved on to other positions in New York District or retired.

a permanent assignment and they now report to the resident engineer at the McGuire Air Force Base office. George Proprocki, Gamal Awad, and Chris Nastasi underwent the same kind of change as their details to the East Brunswick Resident Office became permanent. The FUSRAP Resident Office added George Fedoriw and Ken Maley, though Maley will continue as project engineer on the last project being handled by the Fort

Continued on page 3



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

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**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

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9-11-01
Lest we forget

What does regionalization mean to you?

Two of New York District's finest were posed this question in an North Atlantic Region article. This example illustrates the defining principle of regionalization, which is teamwork and providing customers with top-notch results.

Lawrence Mazzola, Chief, Military Programs Branch

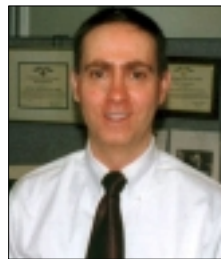
In Programs, Plans and Policy Management Division, we've always used regionalization informally. It's not at all unusual for New York District to call on Norfolk or Baltimore Districts, for example, for contracting assistance using a design-build contract, or to draw on the expertise in other districts to ensure customers' needs are met. We've done it unconsciously, but not to a great extent.



Lawrence Mazzola

Today that is changing with the regionalization of districts and divisions as Regional Business Centers under the Corps' 2012 Reorganization.

For years districts had other ways of thinking. People were always concerned over the workload. We need to say, "It's one Corps", and not, "It's a different district." Once that happens – once you realize that it's one large team – you get it. You can't think the old way. Case in point: Experts from Europe and Norfolk Districts recently teamed to prepare a request for proposals for bids on the Explosive Research and Development Loading Facility at Picatinny Arsenal, located within the New York District boundaries. This teamwork helped to ensure the proposal was done right and on time for an important customer. The North Atlantic and Europe Regionalization allowed us to better use the resources from other districts.



Paul Tumminello

Paul Tumminello, Project Manager

John Donne once said, "No man is an island," and in many ways, organizations today must follow that same principle, something the Army Corps of Engineers' New York District has been doing for quite some time. In many ways regionalization is nothing new. Reaching out to other organizations both inside and outside of New York District is second nature and essential, since it has become extremely difficult for businesses to do everything in-house and still be successful.

We've been using the resources of other districts and trading work back and forth between districts for some time. This method helps deliver faster and better quality projects to our customer.

A recent example of how this process was applied in New York District is Waterbury Dam in Vermont.

In 1999, USACE prepared a study documenting seepage at the dam and corrective action to reduce the risks to the dam and lives. Tasked with drafting a plan for repairs, New York District reached out to New England District for planning and environmental assistance, Baltimore District for engineering help, and even North Atlantic Division and USACE headquarters in Washington, D.C. for policy issues. In each case, every district brought something different to the table and played key roles in helping New York District draft a report that was submitted and approved by USACE headquarters in August 2000, clearing the way for the repair work to begin. This clear example illustrates the defining principle of regionalization, which is teamwork and providing your customers with top-notch results.

Fort Monmouth (continued from page 1)

Monmouth office, renovation of the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School. Lou Febles, also working on USMAPS, will transfer to New York District Headquarters. Doug Wilson, who had been detailed to work on the Pompton Lakes Dam project, will be working permanently out of the Picatinny Resident Office. Team leader Jerry Valade is now part of the Fort Drum Resident Office. Tom Thompson will work at the McGuire Air Force Base Resident Office until he retires this summer, and Judy Santelle began her retirement the day after the Fort Monmouth office closed.

After 30 years with the various members of the Fort Monmouth office “crew,” Santelle, an engineering technician, is retiring to take advantage of other opportunities. That includes full use of the patio fireplace her co-workers gave her as a retirement gift.

“It’s been a great run,” she commented.

A great run, indeed.

A totally unscientific survey of the Fort Monmouth office staff didn’t yield a start date for the office, but Thompson noted that there are files from structures the Corps built on the post during World War II.

Housed in one of the oldest buildings on the 1,100-acre Army post, the staff has overseen construction during changes in mission, commands and personnel.

Team leader Valade recalled the Base Closure and Realignment Commission decisions of 1995 yielding \$40 million in new construction and renovations to handle offices moving onto the main post. The compressed time frame proved to be especially challenging, he noted. The state-of-the-art Intelligence and Electronic Warfare Division headquarters was a result of a similar consolidation.

(Continued on pg. 4)



Past and almost-present staff of the Fort Monmouth Resident Office (top row l-r) Tom Thompson, Felix Chevere, Judy Santelle, Dani Miller, Mike Henry, Donna Camishion, Joe Rossano, Joe Chupa, John Johnson, and Mike Calabrese. (l-r front row) Paul Jalowski, Jimmy Awad, Lt. Col. Taras J. Jemetz, Jerry Valade, Ken Maley, Rich Mandra and George Fedoriv.



Contractors continue working on the renovation of Building 1204, the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School. Work on barracks, classrooms and physical training spaces is scheduled to be turned over to USMAPS in July.

Fort Monmouth (continued from page 3)

Eugene Urbanik, now area engineer for the Northern New Jersey Area Office, recalled working at the Fort Monmouth office during construction of the Northeast Regional Computer Center for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the late 1970s. The U.S. Army Chaplains School came to Fort Monmouth in 1978, then departed as part of BRAC '95.

There also were multiple barracks renovations, family quarters upgrades, and office improvements throughout the post. And for years, the Fort Monmouth resident engineer was also responsible for construction at Thule Air Base in Greenland (now handled through the Picatinny Office).

And Civil Works projects also contributed to the Fort Monmouth office's history. The \$180 million shore protection project stretching from Sea Bright to Manasquan Inlet was run from the base office. Flood control and support work for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were also part of the mission.

Work continues on the \$22 million complete renovation of the barracks, athletic facilities and classrooms of the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory

School. Construction began in October 2002 and is on track to be turned over in July. With the Fort Monmouth Resident Office closed, Maley and project manager Rich Mandra will work out of the construction trailer until the project is finished.

If new work comes along – a Battery Test Facility is in the design stages and may move to construction as early as FY06 – New York District project personnel will be co-located with Fort Monmouth Department of Public Works engineers.

“Virtually the entire value of the Corps resides in people – their expertise, knowledge and experience – not in plant and equipment,” noted Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer. “The natural consequence of this reality is that when an office needs to be resized or closed, taking care of people is one of the most important tasks we face. The experience at Monmouth shows that this can be done successfully.”

Deptula is quick to extend credit elsewhere: “Rick Alvarez was really great. He thought outside the box. He worked to help the employees. He went beyond what he had to do.”



Mary Stavina's

Tidbits

Did you know?

In the library of a long-past Chief of Engineers, stowed in the pilot house of a dredge boat, and also in the clock tower of a Corps of Engineers building, lay the works of one of the Mississippi River's greatest photographers, Henry P. Bosse.

In 1990 a Washington antiques dealer found a photo album containing Bosse's images in a study house of Maj. Gen. Alexander Mackenzie, the Chief of Engineers from 1904 to 1908.

The dealer contacted the Corps because the album's frontispiece read: 'Views on the Mississippi River, from negatives taken and printed under the direction of Maj. A. Mackenzie, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A. by H. Bosse, draughtsman, 1883 to 1891.' The album held 169 large, oval, blue of cyanotype photos and documented the Corps' early work on the Upper Mississippi River.

Within a year, this album would be worth over \$1 million. Bosse now ranks with America's most important nineteenth century photographers.

Did you also know?

The Corps maintains more than 12,000 miles of inland waterways and operates 235 locks. These waterways - a system of rivers, lakes and coastal bays improved for commercial and recreational transportation - carry about 1/6 of the Nation's inter-city freight, at a cost per ton-mile about 1/2 that of rail or 1/10 that of trucks.

The Corps of Engineers is also the Nation's largest provider of outdoor recreation, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 463 projects (mostly lakes) and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to State or local park and recreation authorities or private interests. (Source: USACE)

District donates computers for school use

New York District donated 11 computers, monitors, keyboards, mice and speakers to the Brian Piccolo Middle School in Queens, New York City.

The initiative was launched by Logistics Management’s Michael Murphy and Alvin Washington who arranged the transfer of property to the school in January.

The donation to schools is part of a Defense Department program.

The computers will be taken back to the school where they are needed most — in the classrooms.

Washington and Murphy loaded up the hand truck for Julia Bingham and Edward Doyle of the middle school to cart off to the school in the Far Rockaway section of Queens.

Even though the donated government computers have been used, they are invaluable to the school in its curriculum and help students with their basic computer skills, keyboard typing skills, and Internet access.



(From left) Alvin Washington and Michael Murphy of Logistics Management loaded up the hand truck for Julia Bingham and Edward Doyle of the middle school.

Computers, monitors, keyboards, mice and speakers were stacked on a handtruck for carting off to the middle school.



Lou Benard, artist

Employees exhibit their talents



Lou Benard, executive assistant, exhibited her artistic talent at an art show held in New York City in January. A number of Lou’s pencil figure drawings were featured at the exhibit sponsored by the New York Art Student’s League. Some of her featured creations included drawings of various individual models



Vincent Perrera, performer

Vinnie Perrera of the visual information unit is a long-time stage performer who has appeared in many musical revues for charity. He was part of a concert performance in March which benefited the Tsunami Relief Fund for the disaster in Indonesia. Perrera has played various venues in and around New York City including Lincoln Center.

Water quality practices make strides at horse farm

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed. D., Programs and Project Management

The Akindale racehorse farm in upstate New York is protecting the fresh drinking water under the Watershed Environmental Assistance Program funded by New York District. One of the projects the Corps supports is the Watershed Agricultural Council's Whole Farm Planning Program, in which the Akindale Farm is a participant.

The program is an inter-agency effort that assists in protecting the water quality of the State's watersheds.

The inter-agency team is comprised of members from the Corps, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Rifat Salim is the Corps' project manager, and Doug Leite, the Corps' project adviser.

A watershed is an area on the ground that collects rain water and snow and drains into a marsh, stream, river, lake or into the groundwater.

"Non-point source pollution is contamination that is not directly placed into the water," said Leite. "Storm water passing through barnyards can transport phosphorus and pathogens, or parasites, which are present in manure and deliver them to the streams that flow into the reservoirs. Algae can feed off these nutrients and deplete the water's oxygen, adversely affecting water quality."

The Watershed Agricultural Council's Whole Farm Planning Program is voluntary and works with farmers in the region to create and add methods to improve the operations of their farms to protect the watersheds from non-point source pollution without impeding the farm's business.

"The project demonstrates an excellent example of a local, regional and federal partnership," said Michael Saviola, WAC, East of Hudson program manager.

One of the most successful best management practices implemented on the farm included using exclusion methods to keep livestock away from streams.

"Exclusion fencing was installed on one of the farm's pastures to limit the access of brood mares and foals, or young horses, to a nearby stream that runs adjacent to the farm," said Saviola.

"By keeping the animals away from the stream we are preventing potential animal pathogens from entering the water supply."

The farm collects manure and straw bedding from foals, or young horses, and temporarily stores it on an

outside 100 feet by 200 feet asphalt compost pad with a reinforced concrete push wall, a filter field and diversion. The farm's manure compost facility was improved to prevent any potential pathogens from migrating from the pad to a nearby watercourse during heavy rainfall.

"Although the compost facility was just completed, already the compost pad made the farm's manure handling and composting system 1,000 times better," added Saviola.

"It was designed to be a more stable surface with a grass filter area which was created on the down slope side of the compost pad to intercept and treat any storm water that happens to run off the pad during intense rainfall events."

The farm is adding a barnyard water management system to divert clean water from potential agricultural pollutant sources. Stream banks are being stabilized with vegetation to prevent soil and manure from running off the banks into the streams. It is also improving access roads to limit diffuse sources of sediment from the roads to streams.



Racehorses at the Akindale farm in upstate New York.

Taps

Corps loses two icons



Jerry Seiff

Jerry Seiff, long-time Corps employee died March 29 at the age of 82. He retired in 2003 and had over 59 years of federal service with the Army.

Spanning over half century of service, he wrote a chapter in the Corps' real estate history. Seiff entered the Army on active duty in the 1940s and served in World War II. In 1951 he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a GS-6 in the planning and control branch of the Real Estate Division. "He will be remembered by all of us for his remarkable candor, goodwill and engagement with clients, contractors and the public he served," said Dean Dresser, chief of Real Estate. "As recent as his last three years when Fort Dix specifically asked for him as New York District team leader in outgrants to service their installation to his early years with the attorney advisors, the performance has been both exemplary and memorable."

He was responsible for negotiating and executing complex projects throughout the northeast. Jerry brought to the federal workplace a mastery of human nature as well as real estate. His command of contractual strategies was accelerated by his dedication to the service men and women of our Armed Forces.

Mark Roth, a regulatory specialist in Operations passed away in April.

He joined New York District in January of 1990 as a permit application reviewer and worked his way up to regulatory specialist. He had previously earned his master's degree in geology from Queens College of the City University of New York.

"His passion for correctness and doing the right thing for the right reason was most visible in his last regulatory action regarding the suspension and revaluation of the FD&P permit in the New Jersey Meadowlands," wrote Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer.

"Though the previous permit modification had been his action, he had the courage to make the difficult recommendation to suspend the issued permit so that the modification could be reconsidered. Mark was an important member and leader in our Regulatory Program, as well as the New York District."



Mark Roth



Retirements



Joe Cariaga of Operations retired in 2004 after 30 years of service. He worked in the emergency technical support section of the Emergency Management Branch.

Alex Sheldon of Information Management retired in October 2004. He was long-time District employee with more than 30 years of service.



Corps supports Arctic construction mission

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D

Programs and Project Management

In a remote area of the world in Greenland volunteers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spend months at a time supervising new construction and renovation projects at Thule Air Base.

The air base is in the northeast region, nestled between two mountains and surrounded by miles of icebergs and glaciers. The base is home to hundreds of Air Force personnel, contractors and Danish and Greenlandic nationals.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony in November 2004 signified the official opening of the new medical center, a single-story, 1,900-square-meter area hospital built by Denmark-based construction company GC/MTHøjgaard under a design/build contract and supervised and quality assured by New York District.

A new medical center was needed because the original center, built more than 50 years ago, was becoming costly to maintain and was located far from current housing facilities of the main base population.

“The new facility will save the U.S. Air Force a great deal of money in costly utility services,” said Col. John S. Haven II, 821st Air Base Group commander.

“Some of the new services the medical center provides that are unique to this region include outpatient care, dental services, limited inpatient and surgical services, mortuary facilities, and digital x-ray services that will provide lower radiation dosages, a quicker product to doctors and no adverse effects to the environment,” said Capt. Corey Baker, 821st Support Squadron medical liaison officer.

In addition to the medical center, other projects include a flight runway, taxiways, dormitory, and fire fighting training facility.

“Construction at Thule is a great challenge. The weather is severe. The construct very unique, fast paced, and there were a lot of logistical challenges,” said Joseph “Jerry” Valade, team leader, Fort Drum Resident Office, New York District.



Construction of the new medical center at Thule Air Base, Greenland.

Valade has worked on various construction projects on base, both as a military officer and civilian for the last 20 years. He was the on-site manager for the new medical center.

Materials used to build the new facility included pre-insulated metal panels for the underside of the flooring, walls, and roof and a composite gypsum and metal decking system for the interior flooring system.

Due to the arctic environment the hospital had to be constructed differently than a typical building. Two-thirds of the northern portion of Greenland, where Thule is located, is covered with 6 feet to 12 feet of permafrost, permanently frozen ground at variable depths below the earth’s surface.

“Due to the presence of permafrost most structures in Thule are elevated structures and this included elevating the medical center,” said Valade.

If buildings are not constructed off of the ground or have air corridors separating the buildings from the ground, the heat from inside the buildings can melt the permafrost and the buildings can sink.

“This was the first time I was involved in the construction of a facility with a pre-insulated panel system and composite flooring system. I learned new construction techniques,” said Valade.

Working at Thule has expanded his skills as an on-site manager. He said, “As the on-site manager I had to be self-motivated and learn how to make fast decisions and work independently.” He added, “The satisfaction of completing a project under severe climatic conditions in such a remote area of the world is a project engineers’ dream.”

Around the Region



On April 6 the crew of the Corps vessel *Hayward* rendered assistance to the tanker *Nobel Fortuna*, which was dragging anchor and in danger of going aground. Brian Aballo of New York District contacted Tim LaFontaine of the *Hayward* and was dispatched to the scene. *Hayward* took position on the starboard side of the tanker along with tug boat *Margaret Moran*. The *Hayward's* main engines were operating full ahead, pushing the tanker toward deeper water. The tugboats *Peter F. Gellately* and *Dorothy J* arrived a short time later. All four pushed on the tanker while it picked up and reset her anchor in deeper water.



Paul Jalowski

Jalowski receives USAF Award

New York District's Paul Jalowski was named Civilian Project Manager of the Year in the construction category for the prestigious 2005 U.S. Air Force Excellence Award. Jalowski currently is the District Construction NS Resident Engineer who leads a team of construction engineers, construction representatives, and administration staff to manage an "accelerated-by-Congress" \$120 million, C-17 Aircraft Beddown, military construction and large operations and maintenance contracts at McGuire Air Force Base. He was cited for his work involving construction of the U.S. Air Force's MILCON and C-17 Beddown projects at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. The facilities include a new Fitness Center, an Air Freight Terminal/Base Supply Complex, a C-17 Maintenance Hangar/Composite Maintenance Shops, a new C-17 Flight Simulator, a new Bulk Fuel Storage Tank and a Consolidated Flightline Operations Facility that handles life support/survival equipment operations as well as squadron operations training. Major renovation projects included a taxiway, three existing hangars to accommodate the C17, and renovation of the Air Mobility Warfare Center.



NY FEB announces 2005 Awardees

Jerry Valade, Chairman's Award for Continuous Excellence

Larry Mazzola, Outstanding Supervisor

Allen Roos, Team Leader

Thanh Nguyen, Direct Service

Vikki Gross, Diversity Enhancement

Treashon Ramsey, Secretarial/Clerical

Aileen Nyoka, Student/Intern

Carolyn Vadino, Award for Valor

Crew of Vessel *Moritz*: Walter Grauling, Rein Virkmaa, Steve Simon and Hugh Booker, Award for Valor

Palmer and Tomer receive Army civilian medals



James Palmer, OC and Richard Tomer, OP received the Commander's Medal for outstanding work performance in the New York District and North Atlantic Region. Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer presented the awards following a staff meeting in April.



James Palmer



Richard Tomer

District commemorates heritage and history

New York District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office arranged several successful programs in February and March that featured information which promoted African-American history, Irish-American heritage and women's history. Employees were treated to talks by featured speakers at events in addition to information promulgated by public affairs on presidential proclamations.

The African-American history celebration was sparked by featured guest speakers Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, commander, Norfolk District and New York District's Nancy Brighton, archeologist. The program featured a video presentation about the 100th anniversary of the Niagara Movement, along with a comprehensive presentation by Brighton on the progress of the African-American burial ground project in downtown Manhattan.

Prettyman-Beck oversees the Corps' water resources development and the operation of navigable waterways for four river basins in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She is also responsible for the Corps' military design and construction projects for Army, Army Reserve and Air Force installations throughout Virginia.



Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, District Engineer, Norfolk District addresses the New York District audience at the African-American History program.

Corps and Coalition commemorate Women's Day

By Sgt. 1st Class Darren D. Heusel, AFIS

Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, and the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan celebrated International Women's Day in March by delivering supplies to more than 300 refugees in Afghanistan.

The U.S.-led coalition members held a celebration for members of the Afghan Women's Union and their families, according to Maria Or of the Afghanistan District.

"Among the women who were honored were ladies who have worked at the Afghan National Army Military Academy Corps' construction site," Or said. "Hajera, one of the Afghan Women's Union representatives and a former Corps employee, asked us to bring gifts and donations in celebration of the cause."

Elizabeth Carver, the Corps' resident engineer for the ANA Military Academy, thought it would be a good idea to show their appreciation for the dozen or so women who worked for the Corps' contractor from January to February 2005 and to bolster the confidence for all women in Afghanistan.

"The night before the event, at least half a dozen Corps employees got together to package more than 300 individually packaged and pre-sorted gifts to hand out," Or said.

"Supporting freedom and the right to live and work for all people is at the center of our mission here," said Col. John O'Dowd, Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan Engineer District. "Helping the women of Afghanistan in the plight for human rights and the freedom to work is essential for us to be successful."

The coalition participated in a number of other International Women's Day activities around the country March 8, including the grand opening of a women's center.



Corps members at a celebration held in Afghanistan for members of the Afghan Women's Union and their families.

Community uses innovative method to fortify dunes

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D

Project and Programs Management

The Bradley Beach shoreline in New Jersey is one of the summer's busiest beach spots and one of New York District's major beach nourishment projects. The project goes back to 1999 when the Corps began a beach erosion control project from Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet, N.J.

The project included placing 3.1 million cubic yards of sand on the shoreline by Weeks Marine. The project included sand placement along 200 feet of beach front, seven groin notches and four outfall extensions. Dunes control beach erosion by limiting wind-blown sand loss.

Area residents wanted to take an additional step to protect the Corps' work, so they decided to fortify the beach dunes by using discarded holiday pine trees. Bradley Beach residents in concert with community representatives embraced the pining program five years ago. The project involved collecting discarded holiday pine trees and placing them along the mile-long strip of sand dunes.

In February, Corps representatives joined Bradley Beach residents and state officials to observe the latest collection and placement of the trees along the dunes. The trees are stacked on the ocean side of the dunes to capture any sand blowing inland from the beach and fortify the permanent dunes.

"Dune creation was not a part of the Corps' project because they are not needed in this project area for protection because the area has a naturally high backshore. If dunes were needed the Corps certainly would have added this feature," said Lynn Bocamazo, senior coastal engineer, New York District, who designed and monitors the completed beach nourishment project.

To date, an estimated 20,000 trees have been used to create a stretch of dunes, 4 feet to 9 feet high, along the mile-long oceanfront. This past holiday season an additional 3,000 trees were added.

The dunes are a saw-tooth design, and snow fences are also placed on an angle along the promenade side of the dune to support the dune system. "This makes the beach look appealing from the shore side," said Richard Bianchi, operating supervisor of Public Works for Bradley Beach.



Trees were placed on their sides to capture sand blowing inland from the beach and eventually forming permanent dunes.



Representatives from Bradley Beach, NJDEP, and Rep. Frank Pallone's office with Corps representatives, JoAnne Castagna PPMD, Lynn Bocamazo senior coastal engineer, EN, and Doug Leite, project manager observing the pining project.

Fifty-thousand plugs of dune grass were also planted, and according to Bianchi, Bradley Beach is in the process of receiving a grant for an additional 25,000 to 50,000 plugs of dune grass.

"A proactive municipal public works department is a beneficial addition to any Federal or State beach erosion control project. Bradley Beach is trying to aggressively maintain the sand that was placed there and is an active participant in the project's success," Bocamazo added.

Corps projects save \$31M in flooded Ulster County

By Sue Hopkins, Public Affairs

Images of neighborhoods ravaged by floods filled newspapers and television news programs in late March and early April as communities in New Jersey and New York coped with up to 5 inches of rain in one day, followed by another week of nearly daily showers. Damage was extensive in some areas, with neighborhoods devastated by flooding.

What doesn't usually make the news: Flood control projects that did exactly what they were designed to do, saving millions of dollars in property and public resources because flooding didn't happen where projects were in place. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers programs and projects prevented nearly \$60 million in damages at locations in Vermont, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. Levees, channel improvements, flood walls, dam modifications and open space preservation all played a part in easing the effect of a significant rain event.

In the midst of extensive regional flooding damage, three Ulster County, New York towns are especially grateful for Corps flood control projects that saved them millions of dollars during recent regional

flooding. And one town across the creek is hoping for Corps help to prevent future flooding.

"If it had not been for the (Corps) project, we would have been ravaged," said Elliott Auerbach, village manager for the Village of Ellenville, N.Y.

He estimated the savings to his community at well over \$10 million in flood damage prevented because of the channel, levee and dam removal project the Corps completed in the 1970s. New York District estimates of damage prevented by the project stand at \$5,387,100.

That's low, according to Auerbach. The village's sewer facility, entire school district and valuable commercial properties lie along the Beer Kill, he said, as well as up and down Sandberg and Miracle creeks.

"I was born here," he said. "I live on one of your projects. I stood on one of the berms during a major storm at 2 a.m. and was amazed at the power of the water."

The rushing water didn't go over the berm, he said. Auerbach deemed the \$5 million initial construction cost and \$2 million in repairs (in the 1990s) well worth the investment.

"Consider this project a success," he concluded.

Also praising a Corps project: Bob Gallagher, town supervisor in Rosendale, N.Y.

"This flood reached the same height as 1955, a record," he noted. "The project performed excellently."

The Corps project widened and deepened the Rondout Creek channel, adding levees and drainage ponds. Work was completed in 1971.

The project successfully protected more than 50 properties, he reported, endorsing the Corps' estimate of \$10,956,600 in damages prevented.

(Continued on pg. 13)



Photo: Carolyn Vadino

A contingent of Corps representatives met New Jersey Senator John Corzine in Oakland, N.J. that was severely flooded. Corzine and the Corps met with residents. The Corps was on hand for technical answers about the Corps' project in the area.

Flooding (continued from pg. 12)

The waters of Esopus Creed didn't disturb areas of Kingston, N.Y., protected by the levees built in the 1970s.

"We're still here," said Steve Gorsline, Kingston's town superintendent. "The project held up fine. Water was a couple of feet from the top" of the levee protecting the downtown area, including the Kingston Plaza Shopping Center.

The Corps estimate of property damage prevented — \$10,397,300 — is about right, he said.

But across the creek it's a different story, where the Town of Ulster is not protected by a flood control project.

Town Supervisor Frederick Wadnola estimates damage at more than \$25 million. Two mobile home parks were destroyed, 300 families were displaced, and floodwaters stretched more than a mile to the New York State Thruway.

"It's unbelievable, the damage," he said. "We'll be asking the Corps for help."

(Thanks to Rich Campbell, Operations Division; Peter Koch, Engineering Division, and Paul Tumminello, Programs and Project Management Division, for their assistance in researching this story.)

Flood control projects at work

Project	Damages Prevented (x \$1,000)	Work Completed
<i>New Jersey</i>		
Rahway	26.9	L
South Orange	2,252.7	C, L
Elizabeth	531.9	C, L
Hillside	33.4	L, P, Pm
<i>New York</i>		
Herkimer	0.0	L
Hoosick Falls	51.0	C, L
Pleasant Valley	8.8	C, L, D
Rosendale	10,956.6	C, L
South Amsterdam	2,435.3	F
Walkill River	1,191.0	C&S
North Ellenville	5,387.1	C, L, D
Holland Patent	24.1	L
Kingston	10,397.3	L
Yonkers	12,946.6	C
Nepera Park	742.2	C
Ardsley	1,257.6	F, S
Chappaqua	235.8	C
<i>Connecticut</i>		
Pemberwick	63.8	C, L
<i>Massachusetts</i>		
Adams	240.8	C, L
North Adams	2,085.2	C, D, L
<i>Vermont</i>		
East Barre	557.1	D
Waterbury	410.0	D, R
Wrightsville	1,278.7	D, R
Bennington	6.1	L
Richford	117.2	C
Lamoille River	291.5	C, D, B
Total	52,631.7	

Key
 B = Bank work P = Pond
 C = Channel work Pm = Pump
 D = Dam work R = Reservoir
 F = Floodwall S = Swales/ditches
 L = Levee



Corps of Engineers personnel load sandbags for use in the flood area. Communities in New Jersey and New York coped with up to 5 inches of rain in one day, followed by another week of nearly daily showers.



Damage in New Jersey was extensive in some areas, with neighborhoods devastated by flooding.

Corps personnel answer the call to duty

Corps personnel have deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. There are hundreds of Army Corps military and civilian employees in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is a continuous need for personnel with vital skills and experience.

New York District has had several people who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan deployments, some remain currently deployed, and more are preparing to go in the future.

New York District currently has several people supporting Afghanistan Engineering District and several more who have returned. The Corps is managing design and construction of various building projects.

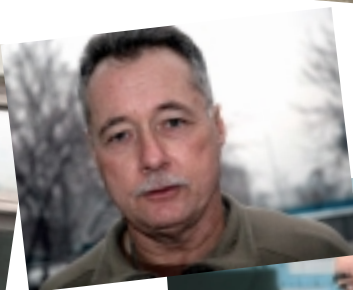
Milton Ricks, quality assurance representative reviews a project job status with contractors.



Milton Ricks, quality assurance representative reviews the punch list for a building prior to being turned over.



In addition to the Corps rebuilding mission, they have launched various endeavors to assist the native people.



Rich Bulvid, Richard Lavole, and William Matias are part of history. They are making a difference, serving the nation, Army and the Corps in the region.

serving Afghanistan mission



Several New York District personnel have volunteered to augment the Afghanistan Engineer District and support the Army's and the Corps' primary focus in the region and mission in Afghanistan.

Bridge contract awarded

A contract to build a bridge between Afghanistan and Tajikistan was awarded by the Corps. The bridge will enable economic development and integration in the region.

"The Afghanistan-Tajikistan Bridge is a start in developing a new form of cross-border cooperation between the countries of Afghanistan and Tajikistan which ultimately will enhance the market economy and democracy of both countries," said Maj. Don Pincus, who is the resident engineer for the project.

The bridge will provide a two-lane vehicle bridge with a pedestrian walkway connecting Afghanistan and Tajikistan, spanning the Pyandzh River at Sher Khan, Afghanistan, and Niznji Pianj, Tajikistan. Scheduled to be completed April 2007, the contract was awarded to Rizzani de Eccher S.p.A. of Udine, Italy.



A vehicular/pedestrian walkway bridge with access roads and approach ramps will be designed and constructed by the successful offeror across the Pyandzh River between Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

MAJOR CORPS AFGHANISTAN PROJECTS

Pol-e-charki: construction of 167 structures including barracks, training, administration and support facilities for Afghan National Army soldiers.

Darualman: construction of 98 major structures including barracks, training and administrative and support buildings for troops.

Mazar-eSharif: construction of 71 major structures as well as a waste water treatment plant and power plant to provide life support for troops.

Kabul Military Training Center and Military Entrance Processing Station: construction of 57 major structures including barracks, training and processing support facilities for active troops.

Herat: construction of 71 structures including barracks, administration and support facilities for troops.

Kandahar: construction of 14 structures including barracks, administration and support facilities for troops.

Gardez: construction of 71 structures including barracks, administration and support facilities for troops.



Regional action

District hosts Dutch engineers

In April, Steve Couch and Lynn Bocamazo of New York District conducted a comprehensive briefing for a group of six Dutch engineers. Also on hand were Roselle Henn, John Tavoraro and Donald Cresitello of the Corps. The briefing included a question and answer session, a slide presentation and overview of the Corps beach protection projects along Long Island. Following the briefing the group toured the Corps projects.



District Engineer speaks to media

Col. Richard J. Polo, Jr., District Engineer speaks with a television news crew on Long Island. The media was interested in the Corps' Westhampton interim project Fire Island to Montauk Point beach erosion and hurricane protection, South shore, Long Island, New York.

Archaeologists reach out to students

Carissa Scarpa and a team from New York District's Environmental Section visited a streambank stabilization project. Nearby, teachers and students at Menlo Park Terrace School in Methuchen, N.J. had the opportunity to observe the Corps at work on the project.

Kirsten Davis, Bobbi Jo McClain, Jeffrey Cusano, and Susan Schneider conducted archaeological field testing in Woodbridge Township. The project is the South Branch of the Rahway River Emergency Streambank Stabilization Project.

"Because our project is adjacent to the school, the principal, Sharon McGreevy, asked if it would be possible to demonstrate to the kids how an archaeological survey is done," said Scarpa. "I agreed and gave a presentation to the class. The work involved digging an archaeological test pit, and showing the students how to screen the soil, what tools archaeologists use and explained how archaeology fits into the field of science.."



Scarpa, along with the group discussed, the prehistory and history of the area and which artifacts came from a site near the project area.

FEST makes First

By Spc. Lee Elder

**133d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment,
Army National Guard**

A four-man team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is at Fort Irwin, Calif. providing support to Georgia's 48th Brigade Combat Team.

At the same time, the team is providing help for the National Training Center's much-worn roads.

The Forward Engineer Support Team, or "FEST," is making its first-ever appearance at the NTC.

Besides surveying roads in the training areas and infrastructure at the post's forward operating bases, the team is also consulting with Brig. Gen. Stewart Rodeheaver, the BCT's commander, as his Soldiers prepare for their deployment to Iraq in May.

On a warm April day, Maj. Andrew Kelly, FEST team commander, and Andrew Smyth, a civilian civil engineer, surveyed Main Supply Route Barstow that runs through this massive post in California's Mohave Desert. Both paid particular attention to breaks in the road surface.

"The traffic and water damage have simply worn it out," Kelly said as he looked over the road bed. "The drainage problems and abuse have also worn it out, so we're proposing a fix for this road."

Kelly and Smyth are with the Corps' New York District. They are part of the nearly 40,000-member organization that serves as the U.S. government's engineering management firm.

In addition to the survey work on the post's roads and FOBs, the team also consults with the 48th BCT leadership. To do that, team members based themselves out of FOB Detroit.

"We're here, first of all, to validate the civil engineer training the brigade's been tasked with here," Kelly said. "And second, we want to provide the maneuver commander with services not normally at his disposal."

Kelly explained that the Corps has a division in Iraq working to rebuild the nation's roads and infrastructure. Those roads are suffering from a lack of funding, neglect and abuse by the former regime, he continued.

FEST's presence here will enable the BCT leadership to better utilize Corps personnel through the U.S. Field Force Engineering concept once the brigade is in Iraq.

"The FFE is a new program that makes better use of Corps of Engineers capabilities," Kelly said. "Commanders are often not used to the degree of support offered through civilian experts and professionals and this makes it better for them.

"These assets offer the maneuver commander a better opportunity to use them to achieve his goals on the ground," he added.

"This is similar to what he will see in Iraq," Kelly continued. "Our division in Iraq is made up of men and women who have 30 years of experience, and this allows the commander to use that to his advantage."



Photo: Pfc. Michael Pfaff, Kentucky Army National Guard

Andrew Smyth, a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, measures a break in Barstow Road during the FEST Team's first-ever visit to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

(Continued on Pg. 18)

FEST *Continued from pg. 17)*

Kelly also was quick to point out that the group's findings have an immediate benefit to the infrastructure at Fort Irwin.

"It will certainly make things a lot easier for the folks here," Kelly said. "The next time there's rainfall, the road won't wash out. It's a decaying infrastructure, and this team believes it can fix its problems."

Once the FEST team finishes its work, it will make recommendations to the 48th BCT leadership. Then, it will be matter of funding those projects, he went on. That's because it's the brigade that will handle those issues in Iraq, he said.

"Then it will be a matter of applying dollars and resources," Kelly said.

Besides making training and traveling easier, Kelly said the expected improvements would also benefit the communities surrounding Fort Irwin.

There's been a lot of effort put into repairing and maintaining these roadways," Kelly said, "and each time that's done, it gets more painful."

The proposed improvements, however, should provide a long-term answer to that, Kelly said.

"We don't make short-term repairs... that would be like putting a Band-Aid over a bursting artery," Kelly said. "We want to do something that is a little more permanent."

Project engineers train at Army military academy

Twenty of the District's project engineers met in December 2004 in a unique training opportunity at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point. The project managers came from various construction division field offices including Fort Monmouth, McGuire Air Force Base, Fort Drum, Kill van Kull, Fort Hamilton, Environmental Residency, Picatinny and the FUSRAP Residency.

The training involved on-site schooling in a wide array of construction techniques and materials being implemented on the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center which is scheduled for completion in Apri.

"Due to the project's enormous size and technical complexity, it afforded the participants a rare experience to witness in action the multitude of trades, systems and materials used in facility construction," said Rick Alvarez, chief, Construction Division.

Building the huge facility encompassed rock blasting to specialized architectural features, thus using every subject matter possible used in construction.

"This provided an extraordinary opportunity for cross training of Construction Division's field personnel assigned to the Corps' civil, military, and hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste programs," said Alvarez.

From a training perspective, "the value added comes from having a capable, modified and mobile work force ready to be deployed anywhere to assume additional mission responsibilities," said Alvarez.



Bridge to success. Project engineers met at the USMA for a unique training opportunity. (l-r) Evan Ward, Rudy Khalil, Gus Lymberis, Jimmy Awad, Mack McKenna, John Kenney, Nick Multari, Mike DeBlenedistis, Julio Santos, Mike Henry, Adelhamid Adelhamid, Sal Chiommino, Ken Maley, Brian Jackson, Heather Durr, Mandeep Talurer, Sharif Guirguis, Chris Nastasi, and Reggie Perry.

Caven Point crews keep harbor free from navigation hazards

The crews of the Corps' vessels have a year-round mission of keeping the harbor free from floating debris and free from obstructing navigation.

Corps boat crews are gearing up for the floatables season which runs from May through September. The floatables season was designated in 1989 after large amounts of floating debris washed on the shores of New Jersey and southern Long Island in previous years.

536,200 cubic feet (1,985 30 cu. yd. Dumpsters) of debris were collected in 2004.

New York District's debris removal program has proved an outstanding success with no regional beaches being closed as a result of floatable contamination.



Photo: Alan Dorfman

The crew of the *Hayward* plucks a catamaran from the New York Harbor in January.



Wood debris comprises a large percentage of material collected with tires, plastic waste, cardboard and seaweed accounting for the remainder.



Harbor crews snared tons of floating debris from the metropolitan area waterways.

Keeping the New York City waterways clear and safe for maritime navigation and recreation is a major function of the boat crews who operate from their homeport of Caven Point, N.J.



Photos: Peter Shugert

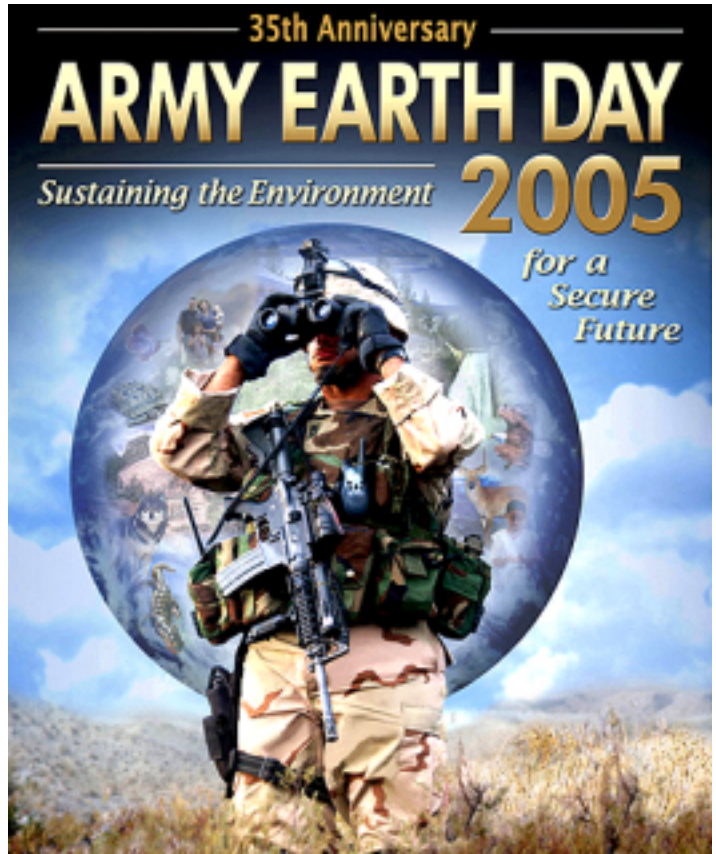
Stork Club



Mark Lulka of PPMD and his wife Julia are the proud parents of son, William McMillen Lulka born February 1, 2005. Vital stats: 7 pounds, 6.75 ounces.

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April 22, 2005



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

Attn: PAO, Rm 2113
26 Federal Plaza
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