

The New York District Times



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'Cradle of the Corps'

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

New York District and New York City Bolster Readiness

Article and photos by Vince Elias, Public Affairs

You name a catastrophe in the United States, and Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 249th Engineering Battalion have been there. Known as "Prime Power" or the "Black Lions," the unit is a first responder to natural or non-natural disasters to get electrical power restored at critical infrastructure and facilities. Prime Power was instrumental in providing emergency power on Sept. 11, 2001 where the unit played a vital role as part of a national response to Manhattan following the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center.

In March, New York District obtained the support of Prime Power to participate in a two week exercise in and around New York City with the City's Office of Emergency Management. The exercise scenario was a Category 3 hurricane making landfall along south Brooklyn and continuing northward. The intensity of the storm would affect much of the electrical power systems in the city. Hospitals would be minus electricity, subway lines at a stand still, and frozen food warehouses would be without the power needed to keep perishables refrigerated.

The exercise was put together by the Corps and NYC OEM in an effort to bolster New York's on-going Coastal Storm Preparedness Plan.

The 249th is a multi-component unit with Active Component and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers. They generate and distribute prime electrical power in support of war fighting, disaster relief, and stability



Joseph Seebode, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management and Soldiers of the 249th and representatives from the NYC OEM discuss strategies during the exercise scenario.

and support operations, as well as providing advice and technical assistance in all aspects of electrical power and distribution systems. The unit also maintains Army power generation and distribution war reserves.

Each platoon has the capability to produce approximately 3 megawatts of power at 4160 volts (medium voltage). The newly-fielded individual generator size is 750-840 kilowatts. These medium voltage generators require transformers to convert the voltage to a user level of 120/208/277/480 volts. The unit offers a variety of services including: electrical power requirement assessment, power production; transformer inspection and test analysis; (Continued on page 3)



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US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New York District

Colonel's Corner

Teammates,

I recently attended the ENFORCE Conference held in St. Louis/ Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. This conference was an excellent opportunity to interact with senior leadership on the direction that USACE is heading and how we are doing at accomplishing our mission.

Bottom line: the New York District Team is leading the way in many areas and doing great at delivering quality facilities and services on time and within budget.

We are fortunate to have robust Military Construction, Civil Works, Environmental, and Support for Others Programs. These programs look solid for the foreseeable future (3 to 5 years), and continue to present us with many opportunities to excel.

One opportunity I want to stress is in the area of recruiting and hiring. Now is the right time to hire the best teammates we can, to accomplish our large mission. This is not only important in the short term, but critical to our future.

While we have this large workload, we need to focus on hiring our future workforce --new employees that are the next generation of USACE experts and career Corps employees.

Another key takeaway from this conference was the importance of our Civilian employee's commitment to volunteer for deployment throughout the world. It is through the volunteers from New York District, and throughout the Nation, that USACE is able to provide the relief, the skill and the knowledge that so many are in need of.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have deployed, and those of you who will be deploying. Your commitment to your Nation is outstanding. I'd also like to take this opportunity to strongly urge each of you to consider deployment. While the conventional wisdom is we would be soon ramping down our efforts overseas, the fact is that the Afghanistan and the Gulf Region Engineer Districts are going to be ramping up operations with many more projects on the horizon. These Districts will need many more volunteer Civilians to succeed. I'm asking each of you to consider this mission.

The District has had some great successes during the last few months that have been filled with ribbon cuttings, public meetings, small business workshops, a visit by John Woodley, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, a visit by Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, the Chief of Engineers, a major two-week exercise held with the City's Office of Emergency Management and the 249th Prime Power, and we had great success with five Earth Day Events. Great effort by all and thank you for your hard work on each of these events!

We are getting into gear as we prepare for significant changes in the way we manage information technology. Fielding the information technology ACE-IT the next few months will be challenging. The aim is to identify and improve our information processes by implementing new equipment, support and efficient management practices. It's important to remember ... innovation is fundamental to our ability to deliver.

Next month is the Army's Birthday and Army Corps' Birthday, and July 11th is our District's recognition ceremony and annual picnic at Miller Field, Staten Island. I hope to see you all as our super stars are recognized and later enjoy an afternoon of recreation and camaraderie.

Keep up the great work, keep attacking to accomplish our mission and thank you all for your service to our country.



Col. Nello Tortora
Commander



Essayons!

District and City bolster readiness (Continued from page 1)

maintenance and repair of power plants, substations, and government owned or managed distribution systems; circuit breaker and relay maintenance; infrared surveys, medium-voltage electrical contractor oversight, and training for personnel to operate and maintain prime power distribution and generation equipment. Each day, Prime Power was escorted by NYC OEM personnel to critical infrastructure locations in New York City and Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties.

The exercise kicked off at the headquarters of the Office of Emergency Management. Participants included Col. Nello Tortora, Commander, New York District; Commissioner Joe Bruno of the NYC OEM; Soldiers from the 249th; partners, and representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; New York State Emergency Management Office, and the Nassau and Suffolk County Offices of Emergency Management.

Four, 2-person pre-installation inspection teams and a 2-person command and control team operated for the two week exercise. The four teams performed pre-installation power assessments of critical facilities throughout the area, with much of the team's transportation provided by OEM. Each of the teams completed four to six inspections each day.

The exercise enabled the Corps to establish great partnerships among many different agencies and to leverage resources and funding for the common good of protecting lives, property and the economy. Soldiers visited several sites, determined what size generator was required for emergency power, ascertained the equipment and materials needed to install a generator, and identified the location for installation.

Local critical facilities were identified by local participants, and information obtained as a result of the exercise will now be shared with the local and state emergency managers and entered into the Army Corps' computer data base. Also visited were underground subway terminals in the city, a fish market in the Bronx, and water and sewage treatment plants, hospitals, and a correction facility in the region.

"We've achieved everything, we hoped to and more through this two week exercise" said Tortora.

"It's important that as we now understand the potential impacts of a large catastrophic event on New York City that we take the information and move forward to continuously upgrade and improve our preparedness. The relationships fostered among the agencies, and the information gathered, will be very useful if and when we are called on to respond to assist an area like New York City in recovery after a major storm event."

"I think it was an excellent learning experience for all at the parties involved, and we have a number of take-aways that we can now implement which will help prepare the City of New York in the event of a storm," added Paul Tumminello, project manager with New York District.

"The exercise provided a great team building opportunity where the folks from New York City and the other jurisdictions and the counties were able to build a working relationship with the 249th," said Donald Cresitello, project planner and hurricane evacuation study manager at New York District.

The 249th toured 100 critical areas vulnerable to a blackout to ascertain the most expeditious manner to restore electrical power.

"It's been a very positive experience and we appreciate the opportunity to come up here and participate," said CW2 Robert J. Hopkins, 1A power station tech, A company, 249th.



Maj. Calvin Hudson, Operations Officer of the 249th, explains the role of Prime Power during the exercise kick-off at the Office of Emergency Management.



CW2 Robert J. Hopkins, of Prime Power speaks with Donald E. Cresitello, project planner and hurricane evacuation study manager during the exercise.

District makes repairs to damaged Recruiting Station



The explosion shattered the recruiting station's thick front windows, mangling the steel and glass door entrance, which also knocked out electrical power to the station's huge jumbo-tron.

By Kenneth Wells, Public Affairs

When the Times Square Recruiting Station was damaged by an explosive device, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, did the only thing it could: respond promptly. The attack, which occurred at 3:45 A.M. on March 6, 2008, left a hole in the station's front window and shattered a glass door. No one was hurt during the attack.

By 7 A.M., New York District was on the scene, trying to assess damage and work up a plan to facilitate repairs so that the booth could be reopened. New York District's Real Estate division oversees

the leases for 300 recruiting stations throughout the state. After assessing the damage, it was determined that a temporary door would have to be installed, before being replaced with a permanent one.

New York District's Emergency Operations Division removed the damaged door and assisted in the initial clean up of broken glass and other debris, before reopening the station by late Thursday afternoon. Recruiters spent the night in the station to ensure its safety and by 1 p.m. Friday afternoon, a new temporary door was installed.

(Continued on page 5)

Recruiting station (continued from page 4)

“Our number one priority throughout this ordeal was securing the recruiting station and getting it back up and running as quickly as possible,” said Lt. Col. Leonard Law, Deputy Commander for New York District, who spoke with a group of local media Friday while overseeing the installation of a temporary glass door.

The Times Square Recruiting station was rebuilt and reopened in September 1999. It cost \$1.4 million and holds the national record for the most recruits at 10,000 per year. The booth is equipped with fluorescent lights in vibrant red, white and blue, forming a 35-foot long, 20-foot high American flags on its east and west sides.

The front entrance encloses an 8-by-6 foot video wall to broadcast recruiting messages from all of the services to 7,000 pedestrians who walk through the vicinity each hour.

Army Corps New York District personnel immediately responded to the incident. They quickly removed the structural debris, and installed temporary panels. Initial repairs included removing the damaged door, installing a replacement door, and installing stainless steel panels over the structure's façade until new glass windows arrived.



Security Office Be vigilant to computer 'phishers'

Computer 'phishing' is a criminal activity that uses social engineering techniques. Spear-phishers attempt to fraudulently acquire passwords and credit card details, by masquerading as a trustworthy person or business.

It is typically carried out using e-mail or an instant message, although phone-related incidents are on the rise.

Recently, a computer security breach at a national laboratory, in which hackers stole a database of visitors' personal information was a highly sophisticated cyber attack and part of a concerted effort to penetrate numerous facilities.

The hackers made over 1,000 attempts to steal data involving highly targeted spear-phishing e-mails, all of which at first glance appeared legitimate.

Phishing e-mails classically purport to come from a bank or other financial institution of which the target is a customer. The messages tell the recipient to go to a web page to "confirm" their login and password, but the link in the e-mail instead directs them to a hacker site where their information is used to break into their account and steal their money. Spear-phishing attacks combine such e-mails with so-called social engineering techniques using known information about the target to personalize the attacks. The embedded link or attachment will often install software on the target's computer that steals their logins and passwords for multiple sites or systems they use.

In the recent attack, the hackers used seven different kinds of e-mail. One purported to advise staff about a scientific conference organized by the Department of Defense, while another pretended to be a notification of a complaint to the Federal Trade Commission. It's believed that about 11 staff opened the attachments, which enabled the hackers to infiltrate the system and remove data.

Although the identity of the attackers is still unclear, security researchers have linked some Internet addresses used in similar attacks to computers in China.



Employees should be vigilant to these types of attacks. Some measures to be taken include:

- **Be skeptical.** It's better to err on the side of caution. Unless you are 100 percent certain that a particular message is legitimate; assume it is not. Never supply username, password, account number or any other personal or confidential information via email, and you should not reply directly to the email.
- **Use the old-fashioned way.** Simply delete the email and pick up the phone.
- **Report suspicious activity.** If you receive email messages that are part of a phishing scam or even seem suspicious you should report them to the Security Office.

Inter-agency teamwork keeps H2O supply safe

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D

In the aftermath of the September 11th 2001 terrorist attacks, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District worked closely with City of New York to analyze the city's water supply system and initiate projects to secure and protect the system.

"It was during this time that a strong bond formed between the agencies and the city continued to call upon the Corps to assist them in various missions to safeguard the water supply as well as perform other projects to improve the safety and security of New Yorkers, including the construction of the state-of-the-art structure that stands before us today," said Colonel Nello Tortora, Commander, New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, during a recent ribbon cutting ceremony for the Eastview Police Precinct that is the new headquarters for the Department of Environmental Protection Police in Valhalla, New York.

Since 2001, the Corps has constructed 6 precincts for the DEP Police, including the Eastview headquarters, all of which is part of an \$80 million program being executed by the Corps to secure NYC's water supply.

The headquarters used to be located in a 150 year old house. The new, larger modern structure constructed by the Corps will bring the agency into the 21st century, expand their services, and help them perform their vital mission of safeguarding New York City's water supply.

For over a century, the DEP Police has protected and preserved the New York City water supply system and watershed lands from environmental crimes.

The system is the nation's largest and most extensive one and provides water to 9 million New York State residents.

The new headquarters will help the DEP Police better meet this large responsibility and will serve as their main headquarters, communications center, main emergency operations, alarm monitoring center, as well as provide training for the officers.



The new headquarters will help the DEP Police better meet this large responsibility and will serve as their main headquarters, communications center, emergency operations, alarm monitoring center, as well as provide training for the officers.

Creating the new headquarters was an inter-agency effort from design to construction. Not only did the project get started because of the bond the Corps forged with the City on September 11th, but the project itself would not have happened if it weren't for the teamwork between many state and local agencies and several Corps districts including Norfolk, Omaha and Huntsville Districts.

The project was designed by the Corps' Norfolk District. "Norfolk's architectural staff was instrumental in helping us get the construction award, which included creating all of the architecture, design documents and the request for proposal," said Anthony DelVecchio, project manager, New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Getting the design approval meant collaborating with the City.

Norfolk District worked closely with the New York City Arts Commission, a group of volunteer architects, landscape architects, painters and museum personnel regarding all permanent art and architecture projects.

"The commission was instrumental in creating the rural-style appearance so that the building would blend in with the rest of the community. The Norfolk designers worked with them to create this," said DelVecchio.

(Continued on page 7)

Inter-agency teamwork *(continued from page 6)*

Once the design was approved by the City, construction began on the 3-story, 20,000 square foot structure that also is the first NYC DEP building to be certified as a U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certified green building. It's interior and exterior were designed and constructed to create a safe environment for the men and women of the DEP Police Department.

The Corps' Huntsville District was responsible for securing the interior which included constructing the hallways with bullet-proof sheet rock and setting up security cameras on the inside and outside of the building.

To secure the outside of the building, the

Omaha District created perimeter protection to prevent unauthorized vehicles from approaching too near of the building. This was done by creating a standoff area about 80 feet from the building enforced with stone walls, cabling systems, access controls, and protective ballards. In addition, the property's terrain is specifically laid out to keep unauthorized vehicles away from the building.

"The Corps values the great partnership we have with New York City. We look forward to continuing this relationship and assisting our partners by providing our engineering and scientific capabilities to secure and improve the quality of life of all citizens, and to ensure long term sustainability of our water resources and critical infrastructure," said Tortora.

Jetty builders rehabilitate Long Island emergency project

The jetty building expertise of Stan Michalowski and Vincent Bertolino of Operations Division is attributed to the success of the Asharoken Emergency Rehabilitation Project on Long Island, N.Y. They are part of the project delivery team who worked to award a sole source 8A contract to a cutting edge group at the end the fiscal year to complete the second phase of repairs to the existing Asharoken 103 Shoreline Protection Project.

"Rehabilitation of the structure was accomplished with PL-84-99, 100 percent Federal funding. The shoreline protection structure was damaged by tropical storm Ernesto in 2006," said Megan Grubb, project manager.

"The revetment structure provides reduction of risk of damage to Asharoken Avenue, the only access road for 2,000 residents of Eastons Neck, Long Island."

Key members of the project delivery team are: Chris Rasmussen, project engineer and Michalowski, construction officer; and several personnel from Contracting, Counsel, Engineering, and Project Management, and the Chief of Operations, Tom Creamer who contributed to the successful implementation of the project.

An interim repair had been completed in January 2007 with limited funding. Team members worked over the holidays to finalize design and award a contract with available funding.

Thomas Pfeifer of Planning Division managed the Phase I repair.

Phase II Rehab Construction was completed prior to the 2007 Thanksgiving Holiday. Final installation of a wood sheet pile cap was completed in December 2007. The structure provided road protection during a Nor'easter that hit the area in mid-December 2007.



On the jetty at the Village of Asharoken. (l-r) Stan Michalowski and Chris Rasmussen of New York District; and Andrew Mendelsohn, Chairman of the Planning Commission for the Village of Asharoken, N.Y. Photo: Megan Grubb

DISTRICT CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Corps crews clean up canal and remove debris from New York Harbor

New York District's Operations Division Physical Support Branch operated the SV HUDSON along with a Rigid Inflatable Boat in support of the Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy's 9th Annual Gowanus Canal Earth Day Flotilla Clean-Up held April, 20 in Brooklyn, N.Y. The RIB maneuvered under several closed roadway bridges, and traveled out to the various legs and side channels of the canal. Collected were several sunken metal shopping carts, many pieces of urban detritus such as traffic cones and barrels, and an old trashed small boat hull hauled up onto the HUDSON's A-frame. At the same time, the District had a drift collection vessel working in the Upper Bay and the New York Harbor.



*The crew of the vessel HAYWARD remove floating debris from the New York Harbor.
Photo archive: Vince Elias*



New York District's SV HUDSON hauls up an old small boat hull abandoned in the Gowanus Canal. The two-person crew of the RIB dragged debris off the shore and out of the water, and then transferred the material to the HUDSON for proper disposal. Canoe paddlers, part of the Urban Divers flotilla, armed with nets, gloves and trash bags are guided along an eco-cruise to assist in plucking floatable debris from the historic estuarine tributary that flows through Brooklyn. Photo: Tom Creamer

Corps educators energize students at New Jersey annual Earth Day event

Critters, a harbor excursion and an outdoor classroom sparked the 5th annual Earth Day celebration held April 25 at the Elizabeth Marina Dock in New Jersey. Sponsored by Future City Inc., a non-profit organization, New York District volunteers came out in full force and dedicated their time and energy to demonstrate to over 150 area school students the various types of aquatic marine life, while teaching them about the surrounding Estuary aboard the Corps vessel HOCKING.

Students showed up in their school uniforms at an outdoor classroom environment and learned about the affects of pollution and the everyday importance of Earth Day. Stations on the dock were staffed by the Army Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, Keane University and the City of Elizabeth. Students had the opportunity to speak openly with Corps experts to better understand the rich history of the Harbor and its current environmental condition.



Tom Wyche fills a tank with critters which he collected for Earth Day. Photo: Vince Elias

Earth Day - Elizabeth New Jersey



Photos: Vince Elias

Retirements



Stuart Piken served the Army Corps of Engineers with distinction beginning with his work as an intern in the New York District in 1971 and culminating in his assignment as the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management for the New York District. In his 35 years

of service to the Corps of Engineers, Piken has held a variety of positions, each executed with an incredibly high degree of diligence and commitment to both the mission of the Corps as well as to the specific aspects of his position



Pauline Pugliese worked for the Army Corps of Engineers, New York District from January 1982 through February 2008. For the last 13 years while in the Regulatory Branch, of Operations she was instrumental in training the administrative staff in financial management systems and making them aware of new procedures.

On the occasion of her retirement, she was awarded a citation from Col. Nello Tortora, Commander, New

York District for her performance, which summarized "Pugliese's professionalism, dedication and commitment to excellence throughout her long career have brought great credit upon herself, the New York District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."



Norman Blumenstein of New York District's Planning Division, Plan Formulation Branch, retired following a 41 year, and 9 month career with the Federal Government. There was a presentation of the

Norman Awards - "The Normys" - to commemorate his retirement. Col. Nello Tortora, Commander, New York District presented Blumenstein with a Certificate of Retirement and Army appreciation citation for his accomplished career, for the many years of faithful civil service he dedicated to the Government.



Harold (Hal) Hawkins of Harbor Programs Branch retired in March following a stellar 37-year career with the Federal Government. Hal was honored on March 27 at a farewell luncheon in Little Italy to a packed house filled with his colleagues, friends, and family.

Hawkins was instrumental in the success of the New York Harbor Deepening Program.

Dobrin and Moritz tie for 'Boat of the Year'

By Vince Elias

Well done to the crews of the Corps' survey vessels *Dobrin* and *Moritz* who tied for New York District's 'Boat of the Year' award.

This is the first time this century that there has been a tie.

Both vessels now have the distinct honor of flying the "safety and efficiency" flag from the mast denoting this significant achievement.

The *Dobrin* and *Moritz* were selected from among seven Army Corps vessels from the District's fleet based at Caven Point, N.J.

Col. Nello Tortora, Commander New York District, presented the safety flags and plaques to the crews during a recognition ceremony in March during his annual Spring Inspection of the Caven Point Marine Terminal. Tom Creamer, Chief of Operations Division and Robert Pivrotto, Chief of the Survey Branch were also present.

To be selected as Boat of the Year, the crew and vessel must meet the strict criteria outlined in the competition guidelines. *Dobrin* and *Moritz* were chosen as a result of both vessels having a superior record in the category of safety and overall performance efficiency. Several factors were considered in their selection, such as total hours of availability, operations, condition, and the age of the vessel.

A flag, and a wooden plaque mounted with a chronometer and engraved with the words, "Safety and Efficiency," was presented by Tortora to captains Daniel Patrie of the *Dobrin* and Walter Grauling of the *Moritz*.

The Award was conceived in 1977 as the Support Branch, Operations Division, annual award.



Photo: Mary Stavina

Col. Nello Tortora presents the Boat of the Year award to the crews of the *Dobrin* and *Moritz* (l-r) Lee George III, Rein Virkmaa, Walter Grauling (*Moritz*), Col. Nello Tortora (center), Daniel Petrie, Daniel Smith and Claude Vincent (*Dobrin*).



The survey vessel *Dobrin*



The survey vessel *Moritz*



Regional mission revitalized through IIS Program

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D.

At the Calverton Veterans National Cemetery on Long Island, New York, acres of dried lawn from constant sun exposure used to cover the grave sites.

The Office of Veterans Affairs, who is responsible for maintaining the site, sought the assistance of the Army Corps to improve conditions at the cemetery under the Army Corps' International and Interagency Services Program, in which the VA is a customer.

Under the IIS Program, the New York District installed a new irrigation system and built a new water pump station.

The Program of the Army Corps' North Atlantic Division region is taking steps to better meet customer needs and continue to generate improvements.

The Program, referred also as The Support For Others Program, is a mission, carried out in every Division within the Army Corps.

The Program provides reimbursable engineering and construction services to other federal agencies, state and local governments, international organizations, and foreign governments.

During early spring, the Program team met at the New York District, chaired by Paul Tumminello of the Interagency and International Support Division of the North Atlantic Division at the time.

Team members from the region's six districts attended including Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, Commander, North Atlantic Division.

"This was the first IIS program regional team meeting held in a while," said Tumminello.

The meeting was hosted by the New York District and gave everyone the opportunity to meet the other IIS personnel from all six of the NAD Districts and the projects they're working on.

"It turns out that the projects in many cases are similar and are being performed for the same agencies," said Tumminello. "During the meeting we shared projects, issues, discussed what the North Atlantic Division IIS Vision should be, and who are our most important customers."

The region is working together to improve its IIS program.

Semonite emphasized why the team is important to the nation, and explained the Division's support to the team, and conveyed his confidence in its members.

Along with the VA, IIS Program customers also include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the City of New York and the Department of Homeland Security.

The team agreed on developing new ways to improve the needs of customers and to consolidate resources, such as customer information, lessons



Paul Tumminello addresses IIS Program team members at a meeting held at New York District.

learned, to collaborate on projects, and to meet more frequently to improve communications.

"The IIS Program is beneficial to Corps employees because it's a large growth area in terms of work for the Corps. It involves a diverse range of projects that go well beyond the typical civil works and military projects that the Corps has traditionally done. Over time the Program could become a significant mission area and where much of our work occurs," said Tumminello.

Semonite said that the region has 25 percent of the elected representatives who have limited resources, but great needs. "I see the Corps 30 years from now and our IIS program phenomenal."

District hosts small business workshops

By Vince Elias

Aimed at enterprising service disabled veteran-owned small businesses, New York District took to the road in March in the first of two workshops held in upstate New York and in the metropolitan area in New Jersey.

The Army Corps in concert with the Office of Veteran Affairs held the workshops in order to get service disabled veteran-owned small businesses involved in some of its construction projects.

Greg Cuyjet, Deputy for Small Business, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and District staffers, including Col. Nello Tortora, Commander of New York District participated.

The workshops were planned weeks in advance with the assistance of the Executive Office, Engineering Division, Programs and Project Management Division, Office of Counsel, Contracting Division, and Public Affairs along with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Veterans Enterprise, Small Business Administration and prime contractors -- all who assisted the service disabled veteran owned small business participants through the necessary processes of submitting bids on contracts.

The first workshop was conducted in Watertown, New York at Fort Drum. Fort Drum is in the midst of a major expansion construction project in which the Army Corps is overseeing.

At the workshops, contracting opportunities



The first workshop was conducted in Watertown, New York at Fort Drum.

for small businesses in northern New York State and in New Jersey were discussed aimed to educate local Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses about the opportunities to bid on larger contracts, either directly with the Army Corps or through subcontracts with large business prime contractors.

“Questions were fielded and everyone left with a better understanding of the whole procedure,” said Cuyjet.

“The necessary paperwork and forms that are required and when and how these should be submitted are very important parts of the procedure and they are were covered in the workshops.”

Cuyjet, emphasized the importance of good faith efforts by the large business prime contractor bidder to subcontract to small business, small disadvantaged business, women-owned small business, HUBZone small Business, veteran-owned small business, and service disabled veteran-owned small business. Also explained were the aspects of procurement processes, and how businesses can position themselves to participate in the government market place.

Anthony Levesanos, Deputy Chief of Programs and Project Management addresses service disabled veteran owned small business participants at a workshop held in New Jersey.



Can I quote you on that?

Article and Photo by Vince Elias

Can I quote you on that, are six words when asked by a reporter can elicit a feeling of fear in some.

The Corps performs an important mission to our nation and the public should understand the role of the Army Corps.

Within the Corps, many times a reporter's questions requires a specific level of technical expertise, especially when in the field working on a project where a person may find themselves speaking to a reporter on the record or on live television.

New York District has a reputation of having very knowledgeable subject matter experts who routinely provide the public via the media, prompt, responsive, and accurate information sometimes controversial and at times impossible to answer questions. The Public Affairs Office routinely relies on the expertise of staff members to answer media queries and provide input to internal information.

In an effort to ensure the District's employees, especially project engineers and managers are prepared to go on camera to the world, on the record, at any time and to speak about their work for the Corps, New York District has launched a robust media training program.

Headed by Scott Harris, Chief Public Affairs, a media training course was launched in January. The course offers guidelines, guidance and training on the District's open and proactive public affairs program with a goal of continuing to be successful in conveying expeditious, and accurate information about the Corps' mission and projects to the public through the media.

The course begins with an overview with Harris as the instructor. The session includes video snippets of a town hall meeting that went wrong, a successful interview by a Federal agency director on national TV and the results of a director who was unprepared and challenged by a reporters' questions on the national news.

Reporters are not out to get the Corps, though it may seem that way at times. They have a job to do and it can be a difficult one. They have to relate a story to the public. If they don't understand what you are telling them, or if they can't get the information from a source, their story could be incorrect or worse -- incomplete.



Scott Harris, Chief Public Affairs gives some pointers to the first training class conducted in January.

There is nothing worse than a missed opportunity to tell the Corps's side of a story.

The objective of the curriculum is training project managers and project engineers who many times are the spokesperson for the Corps and are the voice that keeps the public clearly informed through conveying accurate information to the news media.

Participants have the opportunity to go vis-à-vis with a mock reporter from the Public Affairs team on camera while being taped. The interviews are critiqued by the class with the intention of pointing out their strengths and deficiencies with constructive feedback.

The art of communication is important to ensure that an unrestricted flow of information reaches the public through the media, and it's crucial that public opinion be enlightened, and that the Corps is not constantly on damage control.

"I brought the idea from previous experiences with other agencies and tailored it for the District" said Harris. The training has been very well received and a tremendous success so far." The public's right to know coupled with the DoD maximum disclosure with minimum delay policy, and news information should come from a trusted source, otherwise information from another source may be distorted, inaccurate and false.

"The primary intent of this training is to ensure that the Corps' message is conveyed to our audiences by ensuring that our employees are proficient, articulate and confident when responding to the news media." said Harris.

District keeps pace with Army Transformation

By Joanne Castagna, Ed.D

During the mid-1980's the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed many of the buildings at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Edward Sim, Chief of the Program and Project Management Division at Fort Drum was an Army Corps intern 20 years ago at Camp Drum.

"At that time you would have heard helicopters overhead," said Sim.

Sim along with his team members have witnessed many changes over the years, but what hasn't changed is the team's proactiveness that meets the changing needs of the Army.

In the 1980's as the military changed to meet the needs during the Cold War, the Army Corps was tasked to rapidly convert and expand old Camp Drum into a modern installation, capable of training and housing the 10th Mountain Division.

Fort Drum serves as a base for Active and Reserve Army units and plays a major role in providing unencumbered air space for Air Force training units.

Today, the nation is involved in the Global War on Terrorism, and the Army is experiencing its biggest organizational change since World War II and shifting from a force that was prepared to fight one or two conventional conflicts at a time to one that is flexible and expeditionary in nature and able to deploy continuously.

As part of this change, Soldiers stationed abroad are being relocated stateside. Before Soldiers and their families can return to bases stateside, a variety of structures need to be swiftly built such as

housing, maintenance, training, medical, quality of life and administrative facilities to meet their needs.

To meet this challenge, the Army Corps is constructing quality, standardized structures



The 10100 barracks construction project at Fort Drum, N.Y. The complex is designed to house 238 Soldiers. Photo: Marty Tokos

within established budget funding to be up and running within months.

In late 2004, the Fort Drum team sensed that the Office of the Army Chief of Staff was about to issue new guidance, and knew there would be a requirement to build in less time, and more cost efficient.

The team collaborated with Fort Drum staff, contractors and private industry to streamline the building designs and the Army Corps' Request for Proposal process.

To accelerate design and construction, and to meet the construction window, the team rewrote the installation's design guide, developed a uniformed architectural theme, and standardized countless number of systems which make up the components of a building and the Fort's infrastructure. They also began to limit the number and variations in design, which in the early 80's was a problem. For example, when a building was constructed, existing designs couldn't be used because they were outdated and didn't reflect current building practices, were too numerous, or reflected overly specialized functions.

(Continued on page 15)



PROJECT AREA

District keeps pace with Army Transformation (Continued from page 14)

The team reworked the Corps' Request for Proposals, a key component of the solicitation process that outlines a contractor's requirement to attain a construction contract. The RFP had become bloated with some non-critical requirements.

Sim and his team spoke with the Installation staff and suggested they streamline the information in the RFP.

Within four months, the team streamlined their RFP. With the revised RFP they were able to save time and money and were able to quickly award projects.

In 2005, they used the revised RFP to award a block of barracks in just six months, a process that normally took 9-12 months in the past.

To speed up design and construction, they used the Design-Build process that allows concurrent design and construction, further reducing project development time by as much as one year.

Construction duration was reduced, and the design/build process allowed contractors greater flexibility to deal with extreme weather by allowing them to begin earlier in the construction year.

"The team saw changes coming, and instead of being complacent, we worked as a team, proactively, in an effort to be part of the solution," said Sim.

"Our working relationship with the Corps has been and continues to be an exemplary and positive experience, said Neil Lawler, the general manager of a heating and cooling company contractor at Fort Drum.

"Our day-to-day on-site dialogue, and common goals has made all of the projects run very smoothly, added Lawler. "The Corps is always willing to listen to our suggestions and has been especially helpful and cooperative on many issues. The Fort Drum Team is a model of how partnering can and should work."

Director of HQ Military Programs observes Fort Drum construction

By Fred Pike, P.E., Project Engineer, Fort Drum Resident Office

In late February, Maj. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple, Director of Military Programs, HQ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, visited Fort Drum. Temple observed a myriad of on-going military construction projects at the Fort, and also served as the guest speaker at the Society of American Military Engineers monthly working luncheon that included 90 attendees.

Temple was briefed by project engineers who are currently overseeing construction of the Army's brigade and battalion headquarters building, Pine Plains and Division Troop Barracks, company operations and vehicle maintenance facilities, dental clinic, and airfield vehicle support facilities.



Rebecca Morgia, operations specialist for Child and Youth Services also escorted Temple and a group on a tour of the new Child Development Center.

Temple's discussions at the SAME working luncheon included a very informative presentation of the many world-wide construction projects currently undertaken by the Corps, and a comprehensive briefing on the military transformation program that included information about several up-coming construction programs.

Temple also briefed Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, Fort Drum's Commanding General about ongoing construction projects at the installation and the transformation program. He wrapped up his visit at a dinner engagement in Watertown, N.Y. with various attendees that included contractors, architects, engineers, and various Corps representatives.

Maj. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple, Maj. Robert Kimmel and John Steinbeck, project engineer, observe masonry wall construction at the battalion headquarters facility and Div Troops barracks project at Fort Drum, N.Y.



Take discrimination complaints seriously

One of the thornier issues for managers is how to react to an employee's discrimination complaint. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission lays out rules and regulations, which serve as a guide. But considering the range of possible complaints — based on age or pay or pregnancy or hostile work environments, for example — managers face many decisions on what level of action to take.

Many complaints pertain to the minor daily tribulations of the workplace and do not rise to the level of actionable discrimination. For example, a personality conflict between two employees or a complaint that someone speaks too loudly on the telephone do not constitute discrimination and do not call for an investigation. Employees are not entitled to protection from petty slights and minor annoyances. However, you as a manager may need to mediate differences or adjust work environments.

As a manager, you will need to find an objective stance on complaints of this nature. Would a reasonable employee consider the conduct complained of to be discriminatory? Hypersensitive employees are entitled to no greater consideration in this regard than stoic ones. The employee's complaint must result in an unpleasant effect on the terms, conditions or benefits of employment. If it does not, then there is no valid claim of discrimination.

Despite the use of an objective standard, it is often difficult to distinguish between a valid claim of discrimination and one that is not.

The best advice is to take all complaints seriously, even if they seem to be baseless. Complaints should be considered to have substance until the contrary is established. Being dismissive or engaging in an investigation "for show" can only serve to compound the problem later.

If a complaint is brought against a manager, it should go without saying that the supervisor who is accused of discrimination should not play any role in the investigation except as someone who is questioned by investigators.

Regardless of the outcome of the investigation, complainants must be convinced of the fairness of both the result and the process. This may take some

time, considering at least one party is likely to be upset or angry, but giving short shrift to the complaint will not make it go away. To the contrary, it is more likely to make it grow.

One especially treacherous area for federal managers is retaliation. Although it might be tempting to try to solve a problem by transferring a low-grade chronic complainer rather than discipline a higher-grade supervisor with substantial security clearance, this impulse should be resisted until a full investigation is made. A viable claim of retaliation is much easier to establish than the original claim of discrimination. An employer's action can be considered retaliation even if it is not related to the employee's job or even to the workplace.

Case law establishes that the burden of proof on the plaintiff in a retaliation case is not high. For example, in one recent case before the District of Columbia U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a former FBI employee alleged that the second time the agency referred her to its Office of Professional Responsibility for falsifying arrival times on her times sheets, it did so for discriminatory and retaliatory reasons. The court sided with the former employee and ruled that it was conceivable the manager's referral of her to OPR was retaliatory.

Once the plaintiff establishes proof, the burden then shifts to the employer to show that the action taken was based on some legitimate cause having nothing to do with retaliation for a complaint of discrimination.

Timing is an important factor in retaliation cases. Action taken against an employee within a matter of days of a complaint of discrimination is inherently suspect and tends to place a more difficult burden on the employer to show legitimacy.

At the other end of the spectrum, action against an employee whose complaint of discrimination occurred a year or more in the past is unlikely to be considered retaliation.

In order to protect yourself and the reputation of your agency, consult with an EEO officer before taking actions.

*(Printed with permission from 'Federal Times.'
(Article by Greg Rinckey Federal Times March 3, 2008)*

Going Up?

Passenger elevator Safety

Passenger elevators safely transport millions of people in office buildings every day. You can help make that safety record even better by following these few simple rules.

Do not jump up and down or wrestle in the elevator. These actions can engage the safety device and then you'll be stuck in the elevator. An elevator cannot distinguish between a malfunctioning component and an exuberant passenger. It will shut itself down rather than continue to operate in a potentially unsafe condition.

Do not use the passenger elevator for transferring freight. If you have freight, use the freight elevator.

Before entering or exiting an elevator look at the floor and check that the elevator is level in relation to the floor. A slight difference in the heights could cause you to stumble if you don't notice it. Alert the building personnel to any abnormal variations in the height.

Elevator doors are controlled by an automatic timer that is set with both the elderly and people with special needs in mind; to the able bodied a few seconds may feel like a few minutes, but that is not the case for everyone. If the doors on the elevator take longer than you think they should, try pressing a floor button or door close button.

If you believe you are stuck, press the door open button, or the button for the floor that you were going to, or the floor at which you entered the elevator. If that doesn't work, pick up the elevator phone and call for help. Attempting to use your hands to pry open the doors on your own is extremely dangerous; you or somebody in the elevator with you could be seriously injured or even killed.



- **USE** care when entering and exiting
- **WATCH** for closing doors
- **DO NOT** force goods and materials into the elevator.
- **DO NOT** hold elevator doors open.

Do not use the elevator if there is a fire in the building. Fire damage could easily cause the elevator, or the power to the elevator to malfunction, and then you'll be stuck in the elevator with a fire and smoke in the building.

If you are in an elevator and it stops because of power failure, remain inside the elevator. Don't try to climb out the hatch in the elevator ceiling, there are many cables and pulleys that will injure you if they start to move. Newer elevators don't even have a hatch on the ceiling because of people doing just that.

Tidbits

Did you know?

The oldest unit in the United States Army is the 101st Engineer Battalion of the Mass. National Guard established in 1636. Although the history of American military engineering goes back more than 350 years, the heritage of military engineering reaches back to the earliest beginnings of organized armies.

On the battlefields of ancient Mesopotamia, India, Egypt, Persia, Greece, and Rome, skilled Military Engineers laid the groundwork for the role of their modern descendants.

During Europe's middle ages, the French coined the term "genie" to represent the Engineers.

Over the years, "genie" evolved into the old English word "enginor" meaning one who operates the engines of war, such as siege towers, battering rams, catapults and the like. With the support of professional French Military Engineers, our young Army Corps of Engineers was created during America's War for Independence.

Today, that French heritage is still seen within our Engineer Corps.

The language of the Engineer - "abatis," "gabions," "fascines" and "pontons" -- has its roots in 18th century France. Even the motto of the American Engineers, "Essayons," is French for "Let us try."



District celebrates EEO programs

New York District celebrated various EEO-sponsored programs during the first part of the year.

New York District is unique by gender, race, religion, ethnicity, language, and age, a diversity the District embraces and celebrates. The District celebrated **Diversity Day** in January. Employees packed the house and enjoyed food sampling, dancing, costume and jewelry displays and remarks made by television news reporter Geraldo Rivera, the keynote speaker at the program.



Photo: Dan Desmet

Geraldo Rivera addresses the District at Diversity Day event.

The District also celebrated **African-American heritage month** with a short subway uptown for lunch at a famous soul food restaurant in Harlem. Several employees took advantage to enjoy an afternoon of filling up on homemade soul food style cooking.

A day of children's activities electrified a dozen children at the District's **Take Your Child to Work Day** held in April. In addition to observing what their parents do on the job, they were treated by a personal greeting by Mr. McGruff the bloodhound crime dog and got a special treat when they met the Department of Homeland Security's highly-trained Labrador retriever.



Wedad Yousef in traditional Egyptian frock, and Thanh Nguyen in traditional Vietnamese attire, pose at a display of cultural items during Diversity Day.



Several employees took advantage of dining at a famous soul food restaurant in Harlem for African-American Heritage Month



Children pose with adult escorts, and 'McGruff' the bloodhound crime dog, and the labrador retriever, during Take Your Child to Work Day.

Northern Area takes the cradle-to-cradle LEED

By Maj. Trinidad Gonzalez

In November at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, the Northern Area Office invited Joseph Porrovecchio, an accredited professional, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, to give an informational class about the U.S Green Building Council and its LEED Green Building rating system.

Representatives from the West Point and Fort Drum resident offices attended. Some skeptics think that Green Building is a fad. However, this concept is here to stay.

In April 2007, the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army developed a policy on sustainable design and development. At the beginning of this current fiscal year, all new military construction requires to achieve a minimum silver certification in accordance with the LEED rating system published by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Army Corps followed suit by requiring that all new FY08 military construction contracts state that the project must have a Silver rating at the conclusion of the project. Facts prove that we, as a planet, are exhausting the earth's natural resources faster than the earth can replenish them.

The concept has been embraced by many military installations. At the Tobyhanna Army Depot in Pennsylvania, they have covered over 14,000 square feet of roof space with green roof modules. At Fort Carson, Colorado, they have constructed a two mega-watt solar array system to produce enough power for 540 homes. Luke Air Force Base, Arizona has installed a solar roof on a 144,000 square foot facility. The Arizona Public Service Corporation provided \$1.5 million in rebates because the system provides 375 kilowatts of electricity to the base.

Being Green is more than just being environmentally-friendly or conscious. The USGBC discusses a cradle to cradle process. It has three aspects:



Representatives from the West Point and Fort Drum resident offices attended the LEEDs informational class at the U.S. Military Academy. (l-r) Maj. Trindad Gonzalez, Cathrine Scott, Anil Varghese, Joanne Crawford, and Joseph Porrovecchio.

People, Environment, and Economics, and considers these principles the triple bottom line. From an environmental perspective, it believes that construction should have a reduced impact on the environment and the new facility should operate at high energy efficiency. Economically, construction costs can be slightly higher than traditional construction. But long term, the energy savings can be as much as

30 percent to offset initial construction costs. Lastly, people must have a safe environment to work and live in without being surrounded by illness-causing materials used.

To accomplish the triple bottom line, USGBC uses a four certification program to rate facilities: Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

The program is based on 6 points of criteria: Sustainable Sites; Water Efficiency; Energy and Atmosphere; Materials and Resources; Indoor Environmental Quality; and Innovation and Design. At the end of the project, USGBC calculates the points to determine the rating.

Dom Porrovecchio, Area Engineer, stated that it was an exceptional class and how much more he now understands about the process and the importance of why we in the field must understand the concept.

Porrovecchio gave examples for each factor and related points. There's a misconception that a Silver rating of 17 points, is easy to get. Points are not easily earned. For example, a facility with bike racks and a changing room can earn one point under a sustainable site. What the process does require is that architects, engineers, contractors and ultimately end users, work early in the conceptual and design phases all the way through from construction to occupation, and even the use of the new facility, cradle-to-cradle.

Corps completes clean up at New Jersey Superfund Site

Article and photo by Gene Urbanik, New Jersey Area Engineer

Following seven years of cleanup activities at the Federal Creosote Superfund site in Manville, N.J., over 450,000 tons of contaminated soil was removed.

As a result, nearly 100 residential and commercial properties have been successfully restored and any risks stemming from creosote in the soil have been eliminated.

The completion of the \$250 million project was marked by a March 7 completion ceremony and press event attended by Rep. Michael Ferguson, NJ 7th District; Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, the Corps' North Atlantic Division Commander; Col. Nello Tortora, the Corp's New York District Commander; Alan J. Steinberg, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Lillian Zuza, Mayor of the Borough of Manville, New Jersey.

"Today, we are specifically focused on a great environmental success story" said Tortora.

"Back in the summer of 2000, we entered into an Inter-Agency Agreement with EPA Region II in which they requested from the Corps, engineering and construction management support in the remediation and restoration effort of this Federal Creosote Superfund Site. This partnership between EPA Region II and the Army Corps provided us with the opportunity to utilize over two decades of Hazardous, Toxic and Radiological Waste experience in support of and hand-in-hand with the EPA on Superfund projects throughout the State of New Jersey," said Tortora.

Semonite and Tortora also recognized the project delivery team and individually thanked them for their hard work in accomplishing the mission. An awards ceremony was held where Semonite and Tortora presented the team with, "the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Headquarters 2008 Project Delivery Team Special Achievement Award". Awarded for consistently demonstrating excellent leadership and service, supporting the Federal Creosote Superfund Project.



Contaminated soil was excavated from all residential properties in the Claremont Development containing high amounts of creosote.

The 50-acre site is located in a highly developed area in Somerset County, and was listed on the National Priorities List in January 1999, as one of the nation's most hazardous waste sites.

The Federal Creosoting Company began using the property in 1919 to treat railroad ties and wooden poles with creosote, which is a wood preservative. During its operation, the site had several buildings used in the creosoting process and multiple above-ground tanks that contained the creosote. Creosote was discharged through two canals into two unlined creosote waste lagoons. In the center of the site, lumber treated with creosote would be left to drip onto surface soil.

When operations ceased in 1956, the property was purchased by developers. In the early 1960's, 137 single family homes were built on 35 acres of the Claremont Development, of the 50-acre site. The remaining 15 acres were developed into a shopping mall.

(Continued on page 21)

Corps completes clean up at New Jersey Superfund Site (Continued from page 20)

The redeveloped property was built on top of contaminated soil and waste lagoons. On at least one occasion, black creosote sludge seeped into a residential basement sump and pumped out into a storm sewer.

The clean-up was approached in three stages. The first phase began in the spring of 2001 in which buried lagoons and canals that contained creosote and byproducts were addressed. Eighteen residential properties were acquired and demolished in order to better reach the source material, which was then excavated, treated and disposed of off-site. In the second phase, contaminated soil was excavated from all residential properties in the Claremont Development containing high amounts of creosote. The Rustic Mall was demolished by its owner and contaminated soil was removed by a remedial action contractor.

“The North Atlantic Division is committed to addressing the environmental, infrastructure, and water resource challenges in the region, said Semonite.

“So, we plan, design, and build projects to support the military, protect America’s water resources, and restore and enhance the Environment. We provide quality engineering and construction management services in support of Military, Civil Works, Environmental and Support for Others, and our Emergency Response Programs. This project is a true example of pulling together regional assets and leveraging all combined talents to make a difference in America’s communities,” he added.

Tortora pointed out that the goal was accomplished by developing and employing a well thought out and detailed project management plan, employing “lessons learned” from similar HTRW projects and utilizing the Corps’ regional business concept.

“Our mission from the EPA was quite clear: deliver a quality product in a safe and timely manner and as economically effective as possible,” said Tortora.

“We assembled a highly skilled and experienced project delivery team using a virtual teaming approach,” said Tortora.

The team included members from five Army Corps districts, and two regional business centers including New York District which was responsible for leading the remedial action phase and for overall contract management, quality assurance, and safety enforcement.

Kansas City District oversaw the remedial design and technical assistance; Philadelphia District also provided Quality Assurance; Omaha District contributed to contract cost control; and Baltimore District was responsible for key real estate services.

Semonite stressed that “the characteristic that sets this team apart is their desire to achieve positive results and their passion for success”.

Tortora also noted that the Corps employed highly skilled contractors including the A/E firm of CDM and Corps’ remedial action contractor, Severson Environmental Services and their subcontractors, Carner Brothers; Linde-Griffith; Kennon Surveying; and members of the Operating Engineers Local 825 Union; the Heavy Construction Laborers Local 472 Union, and the Teamsters Local 560 Union.

He also attributed the project’s success to the execution of a detailed quality assurance and quality control program along with a comprehensive cost tracking system.

In addition, detailed health and safety, accident prevention, air-monitoring, odor control, and transportation programs were instituted to insure worker and community safety that minimized inconveniences to nearby residents.

Of significance was 600,000 accident free hours performed on the project.

Tortora pointed out that “We maintained and strengthened our relationships with the EPA and the local community by building trust.

The project delivery team achieved this by communicating honestly, clearly and concisely.”

He proclaimed, “We have clearly achieved our goal of completing a quality project on-time, well within budget, and in a safe and professional manner!”



District hosts the Chief of Engineers

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, visited New York District in late January.

Van Antwerp addressed the District leadership and toured facilities at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and boarded the Corps vessel *Hocking* for a harbor inspection and tour of Port activities.

He observed the New York & New Jersey Harbor deepening project from the deck of the *Hocking*.

From the pilot house of the *Hocking*, Van Antwerp got an up-close view of the District's floatables mission where debris collection vessels were in the process of removing hazards to navigation from the Kill van Kull, a waterway that separates New York and New Jersey.

He also observed dredging operations in progress from various vantage points as the *Hocking* traveled to the Port Elizabeth Marine Terminal, Elizabeth, NJ; Global Marine Terminal, Jersey City, NJ; New York Container Terminal, Staten Island, NY; and the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, Brooklyn, NY.

The port is the largest on the East Coast which Serves 35 percent of the national population; receives over 5 million containers annually and over \$150 billion in ocean-borne commerce; the largest vehicle import/export handling port (852,000 vehicles); supports 230,000 direct and indirect jobs with \$14 Billion in wages.

Van Antwerp was also interviewed by a New York Times reporter aboard the *Hocking*.

The Statue of Liberty National Monument was a perfect backdrop for a group photo and a water cannon salute rendered by FDNY fireboats.



Photo: Vince Elias

Aboard the *HOCKING*, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Lt. Col. Leonard Law, and Maj. Jerry Farnsworth.

Corps use GIS technology to map California wildfires

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D.

Raging brush fires scorched seven counties in Southern California this past fall requiring a precise method to help locate and assist displaced people.

In response, the Federal Emergency Management Agency sought the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Geographic Information System expertise and capabilities.

The GIS maps helped FEMA to identify territories in scorched counties affected, and helped locate displaced people who required assistance that included housing displaced personnel in temporary trailers, and protected the state from potential safety hazards resulting from any future brush fires.

Stephen McDevitt, GIS expert with the New York District was one of the national action officers responsible for deploying and managing GIS teams throughout southern California to assist FEMA and other federal, state and volunteer organizations.

"GIS is a computer-based information system and tool for analysis of spatial data," said McDevitt. "The GIS takes data from various sources, such as aerial photographs, drawings, and electronic geographic data and combines these layers of information in various ways as overlays to perform spatial analysis and produce an electronic map which depicts the results of that analysis."

Chad Markin, geographer/GIS coordinator with the Army Corps' Rock Island District also deployed to California in support of the mission.

"This included aerial photography -pre and post event, satellite imagery, commercial data sources, and vector data from varying sources in the field that includes things like fire perimeters, ignition points, and burn intensity data."

Awards

District thanks PS 307 for support

In March, Noreen (Dean) Dresser, Chief of Real Estate and Lenny Houston, Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch presented the Commander's coins to supporters of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. They presented the coins to Public School 307 Principal Roberta Davenport, Vice Principal William Diederich and Public Safety Officers Victoria Mims and Shakeana Davis for their support of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Project.

"The District is assisting the Army National Guard Bureau with the transfer of the Bureau's property within the former Brooklyn Navy Yard. Besides providing a location within the community and logistical support for an Environmental Scoping meeting, they attended the meeting and extended their services and support to help see that the meeting, in which over 450 people attended," said Christopher Ricciardi, project archaeologist.



(l-r) Roberta Davenport, Principal of PS 307; Noreen (Dean) Dresser, Chief of Real Estate; Victoria Mims, Public Safety Officer; Christopher Ricciardi, project archaeologist, Environmental Analysis Branch; Leonard Hourson, Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch; and William Diederich, Vice Principal, PS 307. (Not pictured: Shakeana Davis, Public Safety Officer)

District exceeds CFC goal

New York District has reached and exceeded this year's Combined Federal Campaign goal of \$35,000. This year the District collectively raised 36,759.94



Key Workers

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Carissa Scarpa | Judy Lee Hansen |
| Annette Austin | Joseph Hirschy |
| Annette Baden | Dawn Hlad |
| Rose Baginski | Yorlett Justin |
| Priscilla Collado | Tiffany Pittman |
| Grace Collins | Diane Rahoy |
| George Colon | Jennifer Rojas-Guidone |
| Jacqueline Garcia | Gustavo Sierra-Gonzalez |
| | Mary Stavina |



Rudy Khalil of the Quality Assurance section of Construction Division received the USACE Construction Management Excellence Award – North Atlantic Division. Khalil holds an engraved wooden plaque which was presented by Rick Alvarez, Chief of Construction Division presented him the award as Peter Destefano, Section Chief of Quality Assurance is flanked to his left.

Lymberis honored by ASME for 25 year membership

Congratulations to **Costas (Gus) Lymberis**, corrosion specialist/environmental engineer of Construction Division, Quality Assurance Section who was presented a 25 year award by the American Society of Military Engineers for his active membership for a quarter of a century. Edward Ecock of ConEd New York bestowed the award at the President's Night awards dinner held March 20 in New Jersey.



Taps



Shelley Moore of the Program Management Office of the Civil Works Branch of PPMD died December 26th after a long illness.



Richard Gaudreau, Master of the Corps debris collection vessel *Gelberman* died February 11, 2008. His Federal career stretched 38 years, beginning in 1970 with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Shien Yie Shiau of the Cost Engineering Branch, Engineering Division died January 25.



William L. Sunderlin, retiree died in March 2008. He worked at the USMA West Point area office for 32 years from 1966 until his retirement in 1998.



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New York District

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