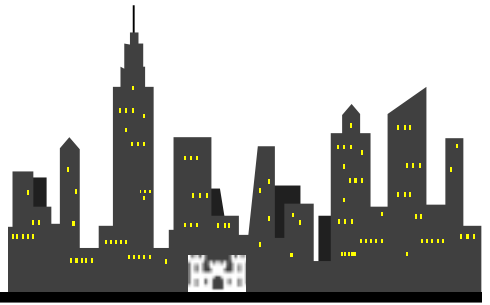


The New York District Times



Summer 2005, Vol. 30, No.3

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

Brig. Gen. Grisoli to command region

Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli is slated to command the North Atlantic Region. He will relieve Brig. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple at a change of command ceremony Aug. 1.



Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli

Grisoli has been the Commander and Division Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division since July 8, 2003.

Through the Division's headquarters in Portland, Ore. and a Missouri River regional office in Omaha, Neb., he directed all Corps of Engineers civil, military and environmental activities in an area comprising one-quarter of the continental United States.

The Division's annual programs exceed \$2 billion and are largely carried out through district offices in Kansas City, Mo.; Omaha; Portland, Seattle and Walla Walla, Wash. A large part of the civil works program budget is earmarked for maintaining and operating hydroelectric, navigation, and flood control projects, in addition to fish and wildlife activities at Corps projects in the Missouri and Columbia River basins.

Grisoli also directs the Corps' military construction program for the states of Colorado, Idaho,

Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. This program includes the design and construction of barracks, hospitals, airfields and family housing at Army and Air Force installations.

The Northwestern Division is a national leader in providing environmental cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste for the Environmental Protection Agency and at hundreds of formerly used defense sites and active military installations.

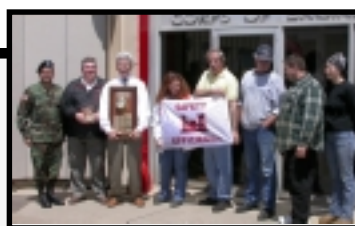
A registered professional engineer in the state of Virginia, Grisoli graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., and was commissioned in 1976. He received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois and a second master's degree in Natural Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

Prior to his assignment to Northwestern Division, Grisoli served as Deputy Director of Army Transformation at the Pentagon. He has held numerous other command and staff positions in the U.S. and abroad.

His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.



Inside . . .



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

New York District Times

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

April/May/June
2005

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9-11-01
Lest we forget

Message from the Chief of Engineers

Every June, we celebrate Engineer Day to honor the contributions of U.S. Army Engineers, which began when Col. Richard Gridley became the first chief engineer in June 1775. His fortifications at Bunker Hill began a long heritage of service by Army engineers that continues today. Although much has changed during the centuries, the commitment, courage, and competence exhibited by Army engineers have never changed.

During the past year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the entire Engineer Regiment have accomplished terrific work. Thanks to the Corps of Engineers team, we accomplished our daily, important work at home on the nation's waterways and recreation areas, on our military facilities, and in our research facilities.

This past year, when our fellow citizens needed aid after four hurricanes struck the Southeast, you rushed to help them.

Around the world you supported the armed forces with quality facilities, and you helped to improve the quality of life in Afghanistan and Iraq. Thanks to your contributions, the Gulf Region Division passed its one-year anniversary in January. Later that month, Iraq held free elections. Many people will never forget the photos of smiling Iraqis leaving polling places, showing their fingers stained with purple ink like badges of honor. Be proud that *wherever* you served, you contributed to that important milestone.

Sadly, many in the Engineer Regiment have paid the ultimate price. In March, the nation awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith of the 11th Engineer Battalion. His extraordinary, unyielding courage during a firefight outside the Baghdad Airport in April 2003 saved many of his fellow Soldiers' lives.

His award reminds me that the regiment is blessed with Soldiers and Civilians who live the Army values, and who are dedicated to public service. As a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you are part of a great team that has made many contributions to the nation's security, economic prosperity, and environmental quality. With your help, we will do more.

We published our campaign plan on June 16, and I ask that you read it at www.usace.army.mil, so you can help us become "One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive, and Reliable." The campaign plan describes goals, supporting objectives, and enabling capabilities that will help us achieve our vision. As you read the plan, remember that our goals and objectives are connected, and every Corps member has a role to play in making our vision a reality.

Thank you for your service to our nation, and thank you for being part of the Corps team. With your help, we will add to the long, proud heritage of service that began more than two centuries ago.

Essayons!



Lt. Gen. Carl Strock
Chief of Engineers

Regional Commander's thoughts on the FY 06 budget and beyond

We have all heard messages about the Fiscal Year 2006 budget and beyond, some of which are more alarming than others.

What should we believe?

Although the future is not known with certainty, the District Commanders and I believe that we can be certain about two things: that the Global War on Terrorism could last many years and we face tight budgets with little spending discretion. Despite this, regionally, the overall workload increased over the past five years, from just under \$2 billion to over \$2.5 billion, predominantly growing in the Military Program, while Civil Works, the Environmental missions, and Interagency & International Support have remained fairly constant. After the Base Realignment and Closure 2005 announcement this month, we will know more about our future workload, and this may require us to consider transferring skills or pursuing other alternatives to be successful.

One of the keys to that success, if not THE key, is being very flexible and agile, both in thought and action. During the recent Command Council, made up of the six District Commanders, the Division Commander and other senior leaders, we examined three key enablers: regional cost-saving measures, regional rates, and regional workload management. These enablers will help the region to more easily and effectively move capability and resources across district boundaries at a lower cost to our customers.

Through our Communities of Practice, we will be able to maintain our core competencies well into the future while sharing our tremendous skills throughout the region before acquiring new resources.

The technical Communities of Practice are Planning, Engineering, Construction, Operations and Real Estate. While there is little question Fiscal Year 2006 (and beyond) will present several challenges (tight budgets, potentially large Military Programs, continued USACE 2012 transformation, etc.), we are postured to meet those challenges.

Thanks to your leaders' hard work, North Atlantic Division will also be better able to meet our customers' needs.

The Region leadership will continue to take care of our most valuable resource—our employees, the people who make up this great Army Corps of Engineers in which our core competencies lie.

However, I would ask that you, our NAD work force, continue to adapt to change. Time and again, I have seen you respond to challenge, from disaster response to supporting the Global War on Terrorism to creative engineering and environmental solutions. Keep up the good work!

Each District Commander is committed to keeping the work force informed on the Fiscal Year 2006 budget and beyond.

We are all different, but we are also part of one regional team; a larger team made up of members who support each other. Because no district has the capability to perform all required functions, we therefore need to leverage each other's strengths, while sustaining those resident in each district.

As we look to the future, I ask each of you to look for ways to do things even better. We need to do our jobs effectively and efficiently, while eliminating redundancy and adopting smarter ways of conducting day-to-day operations. Working together, I know we can all look forward with confidence to the future and make FY 2006 a successful year for the North Atlantic Region.



**Brig. Gen. "Bo" Temple
Commander, North
Atlantic Region**

Essayons!

Corps sends surplus supplies to Afghanistan

By Carolyn Vadino

Mismatched firefighter uniforms that aren't always fireproof, fire hoses that leak like sieves, and a graveyard of broken down Soviet fire trucks, make up the scene at the Kabul, Afghanistan fire station.

With no fire fighting training aids available and little gear at the main facility where more than 350 firefighters train, the site was a call to action for Ed Quirk, a boat engineer with New York District. Quirk is a retired New York City Fire Department boat engineer and current boat engineer deployed to Afghanistan as a quality assurance representative.

Lt. Col. Herman Dick, an Army officer working for the Corps in Kabul, enlisted the help of the Kabul Fire Department to wash down the parking lots in the areas where the Corps works and lives.

"Lt. Col. Dick found out I was a retired FDNY [fire boat engineer] and asked if I would like to see the Kabul Fire Department," said Quirk.

On a Friday, their half day, Dick took Quirk and Rich Bulvid, also of New York District, visited the firefighting training center.

"We saw their need. It was so pitiful to see the lack of equipment, especially their old bunker gear. It was mismatched and you could tell a lot of it was donated," said Quirk.

After visiting the fire station, Quirk and Dick decided to tap into their stateside resources. They sent a letter with photographs to the chief of operations of the New York City Fire Department requesting used firefighting equipment. Quirk also enlisted the assistance of Dan Reddan of New York District, also retired from the FDNY, who worked as a fire boat engineer.

"I called Danny Reddan and told him we needed major help," said Quirk. "He worked in the FDNY, recently retired, so I knew he still had a lot of communication with them. I asked if we could get old bunker gear donated."

The New York District staff stateside worked with the FDNY and acquired gear and shipped it to Afghanistan. A company that outfits the New York City Fire Department donated brand new sets of bunker gear.

A few weeks after the gear was shipped, it arrived in Kabul where the Kabul Fire Department held a ceremony thanking those responsible with Corps employees and Afghan fire chiefs and firefighters in attendance. A tour of the fire station followed where Corps employees met with firefighters.

"The help [gear] has the worth of medicine for a sick person," said Col. Mohammed Kazeem, head of the Kabul fire station.



Surplus equipment was furnished by the FDNY Quartermaster in Brooklyn, N.Y., and donated to the Kabul, Afghanistan Fire Department. Lt. Col. Kurt G. Hoffmann, on behalf of the Corps, accepted four 44-pound boxes containing FDNY bunker sets for further transfer to Afghanistan.

Corps employees loaded the cargo onto the Corps' vessel *Hocking* for further shipment to Afghanistan.



Photos: Peter Shugert

(Continued on page 5)

Afghanistan (continued from page 4)

New York District has had as many as nine employees deployed to Afghanistan in support of the rebuilding mission. Seven from the Caven Point Physical Support Branch and work on Corps vessels in the New York Harbor. The work includes constructing military bases for the Afghanistan National Army and building roads and bridges.

“All those nautical people in a landlocked desert, there is something to be said about that. I give them a lot of credit,” Dan Reddan, a Caven Point colleague of Quirk and Bulvid, said.

Quirk decided to put an advertisement on the retired New York City Fire Department website seeking gear.

Around the same time, Col. John B. O’Dowd, commander of the Afghanistan District and former commander of the New York District, got a call from the Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan. The lab portion of an area hospital was on fire due to a rocket attack. They wanted equipment to bulldoze through the flames. Bulldozers were used at the request of the Afghans, but

the building didn’t need to be bulldozed; instead it needed to be extinguished.

Inadequate fire trucks with pumps feeding water through hoses with holes in them were spraying water everywhere. With no running water in Afghanistan, most fire trucks have to carry their own supply.

When Quirk approached O’Dowd with the idea to get gear stateside, he was fully supportive. For two months, personnel from New York and Afghanistan worked together to bring the gear overseas.

“I could tell from the photos of the people over there how involved they got,” said Reddan. “I give them a lot of credit. They did the right thing.”

Several Corps employees participated in the handover of the equipment, as well as Afghan fire chiefs and firefighters. The event included prayer, traditional tea, speeches, and a demonstration of the Fire Department’s rapid response. Corps employees also toured the facility and met other firefighters.

Gelberman named ‘Boat of the Year’



The survey vessel *Gelberman* was selected as New York District’s Boat of the Year and now has the honor of flying the “safety and efficiency” flag from her mast.

The award was bestowed on the *Gelberman* because of the outstanding performance of her crew consisting of Eric Gundersen, William Cobb, Rich Goudreau, Liz Finn, Kasey Malerbi and James Branigan.

An engraved plaque with a chronometer with the words “Safety and Efficiency” now enhances the bulkhead of the *Gelberman* signifying this achievement.

The *Gelberman* was selected from among seven vessels from New York District. *Gelberman* met the strict criteria outlined in the competition guidelines and was chosen as a result of her superior record in the category of safety and overall performance efficiency.

The award was conceived in 1977. It is the only Support Branch competition and is awarded annually. Several factors are considered in selecting the boat of the year, such as total hours of availability, operations, conditions, and the age of the vessel.

Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer, formally presented the award in May to the crew.



Award-winning crew. (l-r) Eric Gundersen, William Cobb, Rich Goudreau, Alan Dorfman, Chief, Physical Support Branch; Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer; Liz Finn, Kasey Malerbi and James Branigan.

Army Academy facility keeps Cadets fighting fit

By Kenneth Wells

This spring the United States Military Academy celebrated an annual event in its grand history: two graduations.

The first came in May, when Arvin graduated from a collection of blueprints, funding reports, and hope to be a brand-new physical development center capable of serving future generations of cadets for many years to come. The second occurred in June, when the cadets at West Point left behind their temporary training facilities for a brand new physical development center.

“Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center is an efficient properly configured state-of-the-art facility capable of meeting acceptable life safety, gender equity, and handicapped accessibility standards,” said Jim Demetriou, project manager for New York District.

“The Physical Education Department took possession of the building in mid-May,” said Paul Merritt, USMA’s project manager at West Point. “We opened the building to the public in June.”

The construction of Arvin is a project that has been in the works for some time. Originally planned as a renovation of the old Arvin Gym, officials from West Point and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District realized acquiring sufficient funding to renovate the entire building was unlikely.

Issues such as no master design plans, an inability to accommodate the handicapped, the need for a complete electrical overhaul, and seismic upgrades convinced everyone that the best way to proceed was by demolishing the old Arvin Gym and building a new facility altogether.

The process of constructing a physical development center was very time consuming, and during the reconstruction, the cadets trained in a number of temporary facilities across campus.



The Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center is an efficient, properly configured state-of-the-art facility.



The process of constructing a physical development center was very time consuming, and during the reconstruction, the cadets trained in a number of temporary facilities across campus.

(Continued on page 7)

Arvin (Continued from page 6)

“We had two complete classes miss out on having a permanent physical development facility for their entire four years at West Point,” Dr. Tom Horne, director of Faculty Operations and Programs Support for West Point, explained. “Three other classes were also forced to spend some time working in temporary facilities.”

That all came to an end in June, when West Point’s cadets gained access to Olympic-size swimming pools, regulation basketball courts, racquetball courts, boxing facilities with retractable heavy bags that can be lifted into the ceiling for additional room, and other modern equipment. Two of Arvin’s premier attractions are the 48-foot high climbing wall and the wave generator in one of the pools. This device allows instructors to simulate real-life challenges in their survival swimming classes.

“The class of ’79 donated money for us to build the climbing wall,” Horne explained. “The movable handholds and different heights will provide good experience for them military movement classes each cadet is required to complete. The wave generator will allow us to create chop in the water. We are also looking into acquiring fog machines, and other pieces of equipment that can create challenges our Soldiers will face in the real world.”

The opening of Arvin also required some of the staff to go back to school as well, since they had to learn how to use some of the new equipment. “We have new sound systems, scoreboards, and video equipment,” Merritt said. “So we set up training sessions for everyone to get them up to speed on how to use the new stuff.”

The physical development center is expected to serve the cadets at West Point for the next 50 to 60 years.

Demetriou said the project was a total team effort, and was quick to share credit for Arvin’s success with individuals like Dom Passantino, area engineer, Steve DeNardis, resident engineer, Nick Multari, project engineer, Merritt and Horne.

Horne considers the facility a career-defining event since he has been part of the project’s development since 1990. “I’m thrilled that this happened,” he said. “It’s nice to show people that we came in on time and on budget with a product that is essential in helping prepare future generations of Soldiers.”

The total cost for the project is \$97 million. The contractor for the project is J. Kokolakis Contracting, Inc., located in Rocky Point, NY.



One of Arvin’s premier attractions is the 48-foot high climbing wall.



West Point’s cadets have access to Olympic-size swimming pools.

Enforcement action aids wildlife refuge

The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is continuing to grow, thanks in part to an enforcement action by New York District.

A failed mitigation effort in the mid-1990s yielded a donation for land preservation in the Passaic River basin. That \$385,000 contribution has grown to \$420,000 and will now be used to add acreage for an education and visitors center at the 7,600-acre refuge.

In granting a permit for construction of a railroad interchange and train station in Kearny, N.J., New York District required New Jersey Transit to enhance an area of the Cedar Creek Marsh along the Passaic River. The complicated marsh hydrology doomed practical mitigation efforts, so the District sought alternatives.

District officials reviewed a number of suggestions from area environmental groups, but “they just didn’t seem right,” explained Dr. Chris Mallery, chief of the Enforcement and Compliance Section in the Regulatory Branch.

Ultimately, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, established by Congress in 1984, accepted the contribution to put toward open space preservation in the Passaic River Basin. The foundation invested the money for use when refuge officials



Photos: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The pond at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

found an appropriate project.

“We thought this one was just right,” said William Koch, long-time manager of the wildlife refuge. “It preserves open space along the Passaic that otherwise would have been bought by developers, and eventually it will be a visitors center and education center to help people understand how special the Great Swamp is.”

The funds will help purchase 6 acres of a farm in Harding Township, along the Passaic River and abutting the refuge boundary. Koch said it will be several years before funds allow renovation of some of the tract’s 16 buildings into an education and visitors center.

The refuge is located in Morris County, N.J., about 26 miles west of Manhattan. According to its Web site, the refuge has become a resting and feeding area for more than 244 species of birds. Fox, deer, muskrat, turtles, fish, frogs and a wide variety of wildflowers and plants also call the refuge home. The area was once a lake formed by the retreating Wisconsin Glacier.

(This article was written by Sue Hopkins, Public Affairs. For more information about the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, visit <http://greatswamp.fws.gov>.)



A field at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Human Resources meets Corps needs

New York District's Human Resources Office has undergone many changes in the past few months. The chief, Diane Deptula, has worked in Human Resources since the regionalization concept was introduced last century and continues to lead a staff of new specialist acquisitions who now call New York District home.

Deptula has formed an efficient HR team achieving a seamless transition since relieving Amy Cardone, who retired in 2004.

Recently significant changes occurred within HR with four new professionals onboard with assigned responsibilities for a broad range of personnel actions including training, recruitment, and benefits counseling.

All employees should contact the HR specialist assigned to their division for any HR requirements, requests, questions or concerns.

"We are here to support all of you. Please do not hesitate to contact us via phone, email or in person," said Diane Deptula, Chief, Civilian Personnel Division.



Photos: Vince Elias

Diane Deptula
Chief, HR

FRANK CAMBRIA (917) 790-8127
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Programs & Project Management
Division
Engineering Division
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Public Affairs
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Security Office
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Real Estate Division
Resource Management
Safety Office
Internal Review
CP 18 Interns



KATHRYN SYKES (917) 790-8126
Operations Division
Contracting Division
Information Management
Office
Logistics Management Office

Corps employee initiates children's toy drive



Milton Ricks

Milton Ricks of New York District was assigned in May the duties of managing the rehabilitation of plumbing, electrical, sewer and painting upgrade at Rabia Balkhi Women's Hospital in Afghanistan. While this humanitarian undertaking is a worthwhile effort, he also initiated a drive to provide toys and children teaching materials to the Hospital's Children's Nursery.

"Friends at the New York District supported this initiative and mailed four boxes for the nursery," said Ricks. Ricks, Ed Quirk, Myrlande Lee, Rich Bulvid, and Avril Jones participated in this initiative and conducted a drive to obtain toys and teaching materials locally in Afghanistan.

Cold weather challenges MEPs design team

By Sue Hopkins

Thoughts of sub-zero wind chills and blizzard conditions are gone now that summer is here – unless you're part of the team working on MEPS Niagara Falls.

For them winter is always near, because it's a prime consideration in the design and construction of the Military Entrance Processing Station at the Niagara Falls (N.Y.) Air Reserve Station.

The design team at New York District worked from a basic design approved by the multi-service Military Entrance Processing Command in North Chicago, Ill., but weather challenges meant adapting that design.

Construction on the \$6.37 million one-story brick building began in mid-May and is expected to be completed in about a year. The new MEPS will have rooms dedicated to physical fitness testing, medical and laboratory work, written exams, administration and dining – everything required to begin the transition from civilian life to military service for America's newest recruits. There will be offices for representatives of each service to work with recruits and a ceremonial room designated for the all-important swearing-in ceremony.

Robert A. Philbrick, engineering manager for the project, described it as “a process of changing our entire mindset. We had to be creative, but not unconventional,” he explained. “We envisioned it one way, and had to revisit the design.”

For example, the cold weather conditions at Niagara Falls required more mechanical space for heating and ventilation units than were included in the basic MEPS design, but the square footage could not be increased because of other requirements. The answer: put the mechanicals in the attic. It would appear to be a simple solution, but required significant design changes to strengthen the attic floor and supporting walls below, and even a redesign of the roof trusses to ensure access for maintenance and repair.

“We had to consider winter wind patterns in placing the building on the site,” said Armando G. Jimenez, project manager. The building had to have cold roof venting and insulation to minimize icing. “Snow melt had to be considered, too,” and required changes to the main entry design so new recruits won't get snowed under as they arrive.



The new MEPS will have rooms dedicated to physical fitness testing, medical and laboratory work, written exams, administration and dining – everything required to begin the transition from civilian life to military service for America's newest recruits.

Military Entrance Processing Station Niagara Falls (N.Y.) Air Reserve Station

The Project

1-story, 24,600-square-foot brick structure housing 50 full-time employees screening and processing recruits for all military services

For New York District

Armando G. Jimenez, project manager

Design team

Ralph L. DeBari, chief architect & designer
Robert A. Philbrick, engineering manager

The Customer

Military Entrance Processing Command
North Chicago, Ill.
for
Military Entrance Processing Station,
Buffalo, N.Y.

The Consultants

New England District, MEPS Springfield
Norfolk District, MEPS Fort Lee
Cold Regions Research & Engineering
Laboratory

The Contractor

SLR Construction & Services Co., Buffalo

Next up

MEPS Syracuse, N.Y.

(Continued on page 11)

MEPS (cont'd from page 10)

The team investigated other designs, including visiting MEPS at Fort Lee, Va., which was built under direction of Norfolk District, and Springfield, Mass., which was supervised by New England District. The Corps' Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H., also provided advice.

The team also was very conscious of the exterior design because the new MEPS will be the first building people see as they enter the base, Philbrick added.

The design team refined the basic MEPS design presented by MEPCOM, especially the exterior and landscaping design, to set the Niagara Falls facility apart from others. Even the curved wall in front of the facility became a design element by adding the official seals of the four services that will welcome recruits at new MEPS – Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy.

Everyone on the team was challenged in some way to get the design approved and meet the construction start date. Philbrick cited budget constraints, architectural goals, New York State permitting requirements, and working on an unusually depressed site (which required elevating the building two feet to enhance the design).

Time was critical because the MEPS in Buffalo, N.Y., which the new facility will replace, is in a General Services Administration building about to be vacated for total renovation.

“The longer the MEPS has to wait to get into the new building, the more money they have to pay for rent,” said Jimenez. And delays that pushed back the construction start date could push critical work into the cold weather season, extending the delays even further.

Jimenez praised the design team for getting the plans done to meet the bid and construction start dates.

“There were a lot of changes,” he said.

“It was a process of evolution,” Philbrick reported. “There were design adaptations and user adaptations.”

“The customer really knows the requirements,” Jimenez said. “They’re involved in every detail.” He added that, while MEPCOM has a basic design for its new MEPS, that design continues to evolve as lessons learned and local conditions are incorporated. The project manager confers regularly with MEPCOM Headquarters as well as with MEPS Buffalo.

The relationships forged and experience gained working on MEPS Niagara Falls will come in handy, Jimenez said. MEPS Syracuse, N.Y., needs a new home, too.

District Engineer addresses group at port news conference



Photo: Peter Shugert

In May, Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer, spoke at a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey press conference which commemorated the opening of the 45-foot channel in New York Harbor.

Polo addressed a large group from the podium, including Reps. Robert Menendez and Rodney P. Frelinghuysen. The 45 foot deepening project will meet the growing demands of the port and improve navigation safety and accommodate the next generation of cargo vessels that require deep waters to operate.

Corps partners with others to restore marsh islands

By JoAnne Castagna Ed. D

Recently, the Corps has focused its attention on restoring the degrading marsh islands in Jamaica Bay, N.Y. Sand has been dredged from the Rockaway Inlet in the Bay and placed on the runway of the former airport at Floyd Bennett Field.

The sand is to be used to restore the rapidly degrading marsh islands in Jamaica Bay with the project scheduled to take place in the summer of 2006.

The marsh islands and surrounding area are part of the Gateway National Recreation Area. Since colonial times, 90 percent of the marsh islands have been lost, due to a variety of causes.

According to the National Park Service, the remaining 1,000 acres of islands are disappearing at a rate of 50 acres per year.

In cooperation with the National Park Service, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Port Authority, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York District decided to use sand dredged from the Rockaway Inlet to restore two of the marsh islands — Elders Point Island and Yellow Bar Island. The District's New York Harbor Deepening Program will also contribute several thousand cubic yards of sand.

The area is visited by millions of people each year as a place for recreation. It is also a nesting place for migrating birds as well as nurseries for fish. The marsh islands counterbalance

global warming and urban pollution by trapping carbon and chemicals and buffers homes from storm and wave damage.

According to Stephen Couch, of Planning Division, the sand will be used to raise the elevation of the islands to reestablish a low marsh habitat which will in turn restore the island's wildlife habitat.

"The sand is compatible with the composition of the marsh islands," said Joseph Olha, a Corps project manager. "This past winter approximately 182,943 cubic yards of sand was dredged from Rockaway Inlet."



Photo: National Park Service

The Corps has focused its attention on restoring the degrading marsh islands in Jamaica Bay. It is also used as a nesting place for migrating birds and nurseries for fish.



Tidbits

By Mary Stavina

Did you know?

Rusty Dow, a Corps' truck driver, traversed the perilous Alaska Highway during the 1940s working in the Alaska Defense Command.

The Alaska Highway was under construction in April 1942. Army engineers completed a pioneer road that November and assisted contractors who went to work in spring 1943 straightening and improving the road and placing permanent bridges.

In 1944, Rusty gained distinction as the first woman to drive the entire length of the Alaska Highway.



Rusty Dow

Source: USACE Office of History

Milestones and announcements



At an awards dinner in May, Kevin Smyth received the Engineer of the Year Award from the New Jersey American Society of Civil Engineers. Smyth received the award for his work in Afghanistan and for support of hurricane disaster recovery efforts in 2004. The presentation was made at their annual awards dinner held at the Newark Club, Newark, N.J.

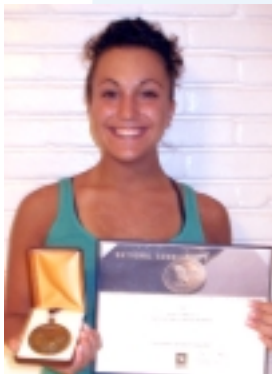


Jamal Sulayman of Engineering and Rifat Salim of PPMD were wed June 11. The wedding was a small family affair with plans for a reception sometime later in year.

Dan Falt, archeologist of Planning Division is a musician with "Condo the band," Falt plays bass guitar and has performed in numerous gigs with the group in and around New York City. Their music is described from their web site www.condotheband.com as tiger-hearted yet dreamy post-punk pop.



Congratulation to Quang Thanh Nguyen of Information Management and husband Tony Le, who were wed June 13.



Donna Braun, daughter of Donald Braun, Resident Engineer of the Metro Area Office, Fort Hamilton, New York District is a recipient of the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete award. Donna received a bronze medal and certificate at a ceremony held June 7. The senior high school class president is ranked in the top four of her class with plans on attending college this fall to major in Education.



Donald E. Cresitello of Planning Division is an avid surfer with a passion for photographing surfing action. Cresitello is chief photographer for Eastern Surf Magazine as well as a contributing photographer for Surfer, Surfing, and Transworld Surf Magazines.

In June, Patricia Donohue, of Operations Division was promoted to GS-13 project manager for operations and maintenance phase projects. She is a licensed professional engineer in New Jersey. Donohue was cited by the District Engineer as one of the North Atlantic Division's emerging leaders. She earned her undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from Lafayette College and her Masters Degree in Energy and Environmental Management from the New York Institute of Technology. Besides successful assignments in private industry as a project engineer and as a project manager, she has worked on navigation projects both here in the New York District and in Wilmington District.

Costas Lymberis of New York District was elected chairman of the National Association of Corrosion Engineers International, Metropolitan New York Section.

"Bioengineering Slope Stabilization Techniques Coupled with Traditional Engineering Applications - The Result A Stable Slope" has been accepted at Corps Conferences. The paper is authored by Bethany Bearmore, Kerry Anne Donohue, Kim Righter and Marty Goff and details the design work done in-house for the Waterbury Dam Mitigation Project using bioengineering techniques. The Corps' Environmental and Natural Resources Conference is held in May, and the Corps' Infrastructure Conference held in August.



Regional headlines

Hayward crew recovers aircraft from New York river

June proved to be a busy month for the crews of the debris collection vessel *Hayward*. The *Hayward* was called into action on two separate days to recover helicopters which had crashed into the East River, only four days apart.

The first accident occurred June 14 shortly after a helicopter taking tourists around the city crashed in the East River in lower Manhattan.

The second crash occurred June 17 when a corporate helicopter went down into the East River around midtown Manhattan after takeoff.

Tom Creamer, chief of Operations heard of the incident and reported it to the Caven Point office. The shipkeeper notified the boat crew, and the *Hayward* got underway to assist in the recovery of the aircraft.

On both occasions, the crew of the *Hayward* used her 20-ton crane to remove the damaged helicopters from the water.

Hayward's crew hoisted the second helicopter onto the pier at 38th St., Manhattan, to enable Fire Department personnel to pump off fuel tanks from the aircraft which was reported to be leaking fuel.



The crew of the Corps vessel *Hayward* hoists the helicopter from the East River in lower Manhattan, June 14.



(Above) The crew of the Corps vessel *Hayward* hoists the helicopter from the East River in lower Manhattan on June 17. *Hayward's* crew placed the wreckage on the pier for further investigation by FAA / NTSB.



(left) The helicopter was placed on a quaywall in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Moritz crew rescues crew from disabled boat

In May, Captain Walter Grauling, Captain of the Corps vessel *Moritz* and crew of Rein Virkman, Steve Simon and Hugh Booker courageously rescued a disabled New Jersey State Marine Police vessel and its crew of two policemen from the path of the inbound 958-foot long 50,538 ton containership *Oriental Express*. Behind the *Oriental Express* was another huge vessel, a chemical tanker.

Upon observing their distress call, the *Moritz* overtook the containership and maneuvered *Moritz* alongside the police boat.

The containership was bearing down so quickly on the disabled boat, there wasn't enough time to transfer the men, so the *Moritz* crew towed the police boat out of danger with less than a minute prior to an imminent disaster.

As a result of their efforts, the *Moritz* crew received the New York Federal Executive Board award for valor.



The crew of the Survey Vessel *Moritz* rescued a disabled New Jersey State Marine Police vessel and its crew of two policemen from the path of an inbound 958-foot, 50,000 ton containership.

Driftmaster called to action during Fleet Week fender bender

During May 2005 Fleet Week, the Corps vessel *Driftmaster* received a call from the Fleet Week Coordinator that a Pakistani oil replenishment ship and French frigate suffered about 30ft section of its hull damage to their port side, after a minor collision at the Staten Island homeport.

The *Driftmaster's* crew using her hoist removed the debris from an accommodation gangway that was broken off one of the ships and ended on the bottom under the stern. Navy divers teamed with the *Driftmaster* crew in the removal endeavor.

The *Driftmaster* outboard one of the foreign ships during Fleet Week on Staten Island, N.Y. *Driftmaster* used her huge crane to remove debris that ended on the bottom under the stern.



The *Driftmaster* crew maneuvers the Jacob's ladder alongside the oil replenishment ship.

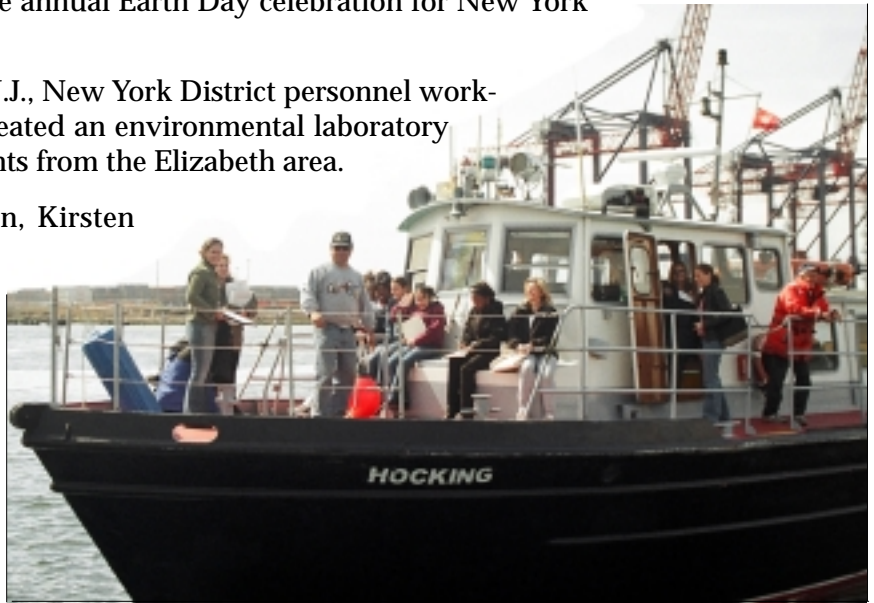


Corps interacts with students during Earth Day

Estuary Day has become part of the annual Earth Day celebration for New York District.

In April at a marina in Elizabeth, N.J., New York District personnel working with teachers from Future City Inc. created an environmental laboratory and boat inspection tour for science students from the Elizabeth area.

District personnel Nancy Brighton, Kirsten Davis, Hal Hawkins, Tim LaFontaine, Howard Ruben, Jason Shea, Debra Smith, Jenifer Thalhauser, Carolyn Vadino and Bryce Wisemiller instructed over 100 students on a variety of topics such as dredging operations and uses for sediment material along with information on preserving the watersheds, importance of the Harbor Estuary, and history of the Arthur Kill and Hudson River. The harbor estuary was discussed in great detail, as well as the watershed, including the Corps restoration and mitigation projects.



The Corps vessel *Hocking* gets underway during Estuary Day, a celebration which commemorates Earth Day.

The highlight was an hour-long boat tour aboard the Corps vessel *Hocking* which traveled along the Arthur Kill waterway that flows between the states of New York and New Jersey.

The *Hocking* served as a floating educational laboratory, with stations set up on the bow, stern and inside. Students received information about the Corps in the form of presentations aboard the *Hocking*.

On the dock, the Corps created an environmental tent class room with poster board exhibits, as well as plastic and glass tanks filled with live sea creatures from the harbor estuary.



On the dock, the Corps created an environmental tent class room with poster board exhibits.



Photos: Carolyn Vadino

Students got an up-close look at the sea creatures.

Corps personnel and students inside the vessel *Hocking*.



Dredging to be featured in TV documentary

Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer, answers questions regarding the dredging in the Arthur Kill for an upcoming broadcast on the History Channel's "Modern Marvels." The Arthur Kill is a waterway which flows between New York and New Jersey.

The program, which is scheduled to air in August, will profile dredging equipment and Corps contracts nationwide.



Photo: Carolyn Vadino

Diversity Day features smorgasbord buffet

New York District held its annual Diversity Day celebration in May featuring a smorgasbord of delectable delicacies from around the world. District personnel were able to sample authentic food from a variety of recipes from countries from around the world.

Sandra Endo of a New York City cable news channel was the keynote speaker.



The serving line featured volunteers.



Deserts outnumbered the entrees

Photos: Vince Elias



More soda, please.

Personnel Actions



District welcomes Deputy Commander

Lt. Col. Charles "Chuck" Klinge is the new Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. Klinge reported aboard June 13. He is not new to the Corps. His last assignment was with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District. Klinge replaces Lt. Col. Kurt Hoffmann who retired in June after serving 25 years.



New employees and summer temporary personnel

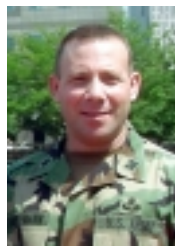
Raynette Gurney, CT
Scott Helmer, CT
Loretta Parris, CT
Stuart Sumner, CT

Summer
Chantel Borroum, OP
John Belnap, CO
Anthony Gerace, OP
Anthony Giorgianni, EN

Sean Keane, OP
Stephen Lebarron, CO
Jean Lau, EX
Robert Pietrocola, OP
Eric Rozycki, OP
Lewis Spears, OP
Marace Vaughn, EN
Simon Siu, CO
Veena Varadarajan, OP
Ali Williams, OP

Retirements, departures and transfers

Lt. Col. Kurt G. Hoffmann, retired
Lt. Col. Taras Jemetz retired
Maj. David Freedman retired
Maj. Yee Hang, PCS
Maria Beiberneit, SA, retired
William Cobb, OP
Kasey Malerbi, OP
Michael Williams, CO
Anesta Botros, CO



Lt. Col. Kurt G. Hoffmann



Maj. David Freedman



Maj. Yee Hang

Cpt. Lovell recommended for field grade

On June 29, the Department of the Army Selection board recommended the promotion of Cpt. Kevin Lovell to the rank of Major. Subject to confirmation by the United States Senate, he will be promoted late this year or early next year. He also recently returned from Afghanistan just in time to join his wife Claire for the birth of their daughter, Maeve Rose Lovell, born June 22.

District pays tribute to Region Commander

Brig. Gen. Merdith W. B. "Bo" Temple, Commander North Atlantic Region and Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer, display the Commander's pennant during a harbor inspection in May aboard the Corps vessel *Hocking*. The inspection was part of Temple's farewell itinerary. A fire boat water salute and parade of Corps vessels rendered honors to Temple.





Work in progress

Corps' top leaders tour Afghanistan Military Entrance Processing Station.

Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers and Brig. Gen. Merdith W. B. "Bo" Temple, Commander of the Corps' North Atlantic Region, greet Afghanistan construction workers at the Military Entrance Processing Station construction project for the Afghan National Army June 25.



Photo: LaShawn Sykes

Dam project takes shape



Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer, was on site in June at Pompton Lake Dam at the Corps' Ramapo River at Oakland, N.J. Flood Damage Reduction Project. The project involves the construction of features for flood protection along the Ramapo River from Pompton Lake in Wayne Township and the Borough of Pompton Lakes.

Significant signing



Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer, signed a memorandum of agreement for the Fort Slocum-Davids Island project June 27.

Plans include documentation with photography and interviews with people who lived and worked at the fort, an interpretive display and studies to determine if any buildings can be preserved in place.

"The MOA outlines the work New York District will do to document the historic fort prior to demolition of a number of structures," said Nancy Brighton, archaeologist.



Photo: Vince Elias

Nancy Brighton, archeologist, Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., District Engineer, Arthur Connolly, Chief PPMD, and Greg Geopfert, project engineer for Davids Island in the District Engineers Office at the signing.

Green brook luncheon held in New Jersey



In April the Annual Green Brook Legislative Luncheon took place in Bound Brook, New Jersey. During the lunch Joseph Forcina showed attendees a project update video which can be also be viewed on the Green Brook web page on the district web site. Attendees included Joseph Forcina, Project Manager for the Green Brook Flood Control Project and former deputy commander Lt. Col. Kurt G. Hoffman.

Security Office reminder:

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

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

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

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

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



Employee Day Picnic

July 14, 2005
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn
Pershing Loop North
Food, Fun, Festivities, and much more
Tickets available in the
Resource Management Office, Room 1909
Adults \$24
Children (7 to 11 years old) \$11
Children 6 and under are FREE
Tickets need to be purchased before
Wednesday, July 13



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

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New York, NY 10278-0090

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