

The New York District Times

Early Summer Issue



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

New Jersey beaches voted tops in nation

The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association has selected Sea Bright to Manasquan Inlet's beaches in Monmouth County, N.J., as one of the top restored beaches for 2006.

The 18 miles of Monmouth County shore is among six beaches from around the country being singled out for successful efforts to restore the health, ecology and protective benefit of their coastlines.

"This year's winning beaches again represent the breadth and benefit of beach restoration - as well as the unique nature of each beach project undertaken," said Harry Simmons, ASBPA president. "These beaches are being brought back to health in ways that reflect the unique character and ecosystem of each one, as well as the unique challenges each one faces both from nature and from man."



The Sea Bright to Manasquan Inlet project has succeeded beyond the designers' expectations of a six-year renourishment cycle.

The project, conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District in partnership with the State of New Jersey, has reduced storm damage for more than 10 years.



Before and after. Sea Bright to Manasquan Inlet beaches have succeeded beyond expectations of a six-year renourishment cycle.

It also has enhanced economic, recreational and environmental opportunities in the area. Located in a suburban and urban environment, it is the largest restored beach in the United States and will be the site of the ASBPA's 2006 conference in October.

Designed as a storm protection project to prevent infrastructure damage from ocean storms along the heavily populated coastal area, the project involved creating a 100-foot-wide sand berm 10 feet above mean low water.

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Inside . . . Change of command nears

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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

Summer 2006

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9-11-01

Lest we forget

Engineer Day Message

The proud heritage of the Engineer Regiment began when Col. Richard Gridley became the first Chief of Engineers on June 16, 1775. Since then, generations of Army engineers, both Soldiers and Civilians, have answered the call to duty around the world during peace and war.

Today is no different.

Throughout the past year the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has made many significant contributions on behalf of our nation and the armed forces. Our workload increased dramatically as we met the demands to support hurricane recovery, while continuing our ongoing work in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, great work continued along waterways, at recreation areas, in research facilities and at armed forces installations around the world.

We have been stressed and stretched in the past year, but you have responded to those increased demands with great commitment and competence. One of the most demanding missions this year has been our hurricane recovery efforts, and it is immensely gratifying to see how the team responded.

In the first hours after Hurricane Katrina hit last August, Col. Richard Wagenaar and his team from New Orleans District assessed the situation on the ground. And in a very short period of time, 3,000 people deployed to the Gulf Coast states. Only one week before, they had been working on other missions, but they quickly redirected their efforts. That response clearly shows the great agility of an outstanding workforce.

Eventually, more than 8,000 volunteers answered the call to help in the Gulf Coast states. They continue to do a tremendous job.

The team supported the Federal Emergency Management Agency by providing ice and water, temporary power and housing, installing temporary roofing and moving mountains of debris.

The team also accomplished the Herculean tasks of pumping the flood water out of New Orleans, and repairing the hurricane protection system in time for the 2006 hurricane season. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this achievement is that so many employees in the region suffered substantial personal losses and hardships, yet they summoned the courage to focus on the needs of others.

A strong public service ethic and willingness to ride to the sound of the guns has allowed the Corps to meet the demands of hurricane recovery while also accomplishing our other important missions.

The pace of work to support the growth of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq has not lessened. We have made great strides on completing thousands of projects in Iraq, and continue to help improve conditions in Afghanistan with construction of facilities and improvements to roads and bridges.

And while those efforts have garnered headlines, every day there is a great deal more being accomplished around the world. For example, we are supporting our armed forces with quality military construction and real estate services—a vitally important mission during this time of transformation.

This past year we have destroyed old landmines and ordnance in Iraq while cleaning up old ordnance here at home, continued efforts to restore the Everglades, and improved homeland security. Also, our outstanding research and development efforts were honored when the Engineering Research and Development Center was selected as the Army's Laboratory of the Year.

I have mentioned only a very few of the many contributions made by the Corps team. I have enormous pride and confidence in you.

Thank you for accomplishing so many difficult missions under demanding circumstances. Thanks to your work the past year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers added a page to the long, proud history of service to our nation.



Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock
Chief of Engineers

ESSAYONS!

Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers



New Jersey beaches *(cont'd. from page 1)*

Outfall lines were extended and stone groins were notched to facilitate sand movement along the shoreline. Before the project was completed in 2001 after seven years of seasonal construction, many areas had only seawalls and strips of beach a dozen feet wide as protection from Atlantic storms.

One renourishment cycle has been completed, in Sea Bright and Monmouth Beach. Design plans are nearly complete for the next section, Long Branch, with contract award scheduled for this fall.

Coastal communities are asked to nominate their restored beaches, and an independent panel reviews the selections based on its ecological and economic success, the short-and long-term performance of the restoration project and the unique challenges overcome in the course of completing the restoration project.

Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., New York District commander, noted that the estimate of damages prevented for the total project was \$53 million annually. "In addition, this project has had enormous positive economic and ecological benefits for New Jersey and the nation's economy."

The ASBPA congratulated Lynn Bocamazo, senior coastal engineer, New York District on this achievement. Bocamazo was instrumental in the project's success. She is a professional engineer responsible for coastal planning, engineering, construction, and operation and monitoring as the coastal works expert, and also responsible for designing beachfills, coastal field data collection, and coastal engineering special studies.

The Atlantic Coast of New Jersey beach erosion control project, Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet, Sea Bright to Manasquan Inlet sections, is a federally authorized project. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is the non-federal sponsor, along with Monmouth County, and the municipalities of Sea Bright, Monmouth Beach, Long Branch, Asbury Park, Ocean Grove, Bradley Beach, Avon-by-the-Sea, Belmar, Spring Lake, Sea Girt, and Manasquan.

The project has been a great success in providing reduction in storm damages from storm surges and wave attack, providing beach erosion control and increased ecological habitat for threatened and endangered species. The project has provided increased recreational opportunities, especially in the sand-starved northern sections, where the beach has become more accessible to the public.

Significant littoral transport to the north of the project area has alleviated the severe erosion at the critical section of the Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Park. The longevity of the fill material, and the less-than-expected price per cubic yard of fill has provided considerable savings over estimated beachfill costs.

As senior coastal engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, **Lynn Bocamazo**, a professional engineer in New York District, is responsible for coastal planning, engineering, construction, and operation and monitoring as the coastal works expert.



She is also responsible for designing beachfills, coastal field data collection, and coastal engineering special studies.

Bocamazo has more than 22 years of experience in coastal planning and coastal engineering.



A dredge pumps sand onto the beach at Sea Bright, N.J., during a beach nourishment project.

New York District change of command set for August

In June, Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., Commander, New York District announced his retirement and successor, Col. Aniello L. “Nello” Tortora. Tortora will become the 49th District Engineer at a ceremony to be held Aug. 25.



Col. Aniello “Nello” Tortora

Col. Tortora’s complete biography will be included in a future issue of the *New York District Times*. Tortora is a native of southern Florida and was commissioned an engineer officer in 1985 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.. He holds a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Military Academy, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas, and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University. Tortora is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.



Col. Richard J. Polo Jr.

North Atlantic Division commander promoted to major general



NAD Photo

Maj. Gen. William T. “Bill” Grisoli, Commander, North Atlantic Division was promoted to his present rank April 24 by Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers.

Maj. Gen. Ann Harrell, U.S. Air Force, and Maj. Gen. Grisoli’s mother Jeanette Grisoli pin on his extra star, as Lt. Gen. Strock looks on.

Klinge bids aloha to New York District



Lt. Col. Charles Klinge, Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District transferred in July to Hawaii to become the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District.

Rhee promoted to field grade



Maj. Charlotte Rhee of Contracting Division was promoted to her present rank in April by Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli, Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division. Grisoli pinned on her new rank at an afternoon ceremony held at New York District.

Regional Headlines

Army Chief of Staff announces NAD commander change

The Chief of Staff, U.S. Army announced in a May advisory that Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division will become the director, program analysis and evaluation, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.

Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite will become the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division. Semonite is assistant commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School/Deputy Commanding General, Initial Entry Training, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli



Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite

District welcomes deputy district commander

Maj. Leonard Law became the deputy district commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District following the departure of Lt. Col. Charles Klinge in July.

Law is a native of northern Idaho, and was commissioned an engineer officer in 1989 from the University of Idaho ROTC, Moscow, Idaho.

He holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Idaho, a Master of business administration from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, and a Master of Military Arts and Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

He is a former enlisted Soldier and has served in a wide variety of tactical, operational, and institutional assignments. His most recent assignments were in the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He served as a division plans officer for Task Force Baghdad, and as a battalion S-3 operations officer.

Law's leadership positions include: squad leader, 4th Battalion 87th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; platoon leader, Heavy Equipment Platoon, 116th Engineer Battalion (IDARNG), Lewiston, Idaho; platoon leader, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.; company commander, B Company 554th Engineer Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; and, company commander, 58th Combat Engineer Company, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, Calif.

His staff and training positions include: reconnaissance officer, HHC, 116th Engineer Battalion, Lewiston, Idaho; company executive officer, B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.; Battalion S-4, 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Castle, Korea; observer-controller, Sidewinder Team, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.; tactics instructor, Canadian School of Military Engineering, CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick; battalion executive officer, 1st Battalion 338th Regiment, 85th Training Support Division, Fort McCoy, Wis.; division plans officer, G-3, 1st Cavalry Division; and battalion S-3, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Law is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the School of Advanced Military Studies.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, three awards of the Army Meritorious Service Medal, three awards of the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Good Conduct Medal.



Maj. Leonard Law

Greenland dorm project ahead of schedule

By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has constructed several of the facilities at Thule Air Base in Greenland, often under extreme Arctic conditions. The base is home to the U.S. Air Force, American and Danish contractors and Greenlandic personnel.

Army Corps project engineer Paul Kara and his team are completing work on a much-needed dormitory scheduled to be completed an entire season ahead of schedule.

The Corps designed and is building the 3-story dormitory with 72 rooms designed to withstand the extreme climate. Construction began in March by MT Hojgaard, a Danish firm, and will continue until completed this summer. Rooms will be divided into 4-bedroom modules with bathrooms, walk-in closets, a shared social area, housekeeping areas, and laundry rooms on each floor. There will also be a common area with a kitchen equipped with appliances in the center of each floor with large windows.

“The team is completing the project one season ahead of schedule, staying within budget and providing a quality landmark facility for American military personnel at Thule Air Base,” said Kara.



A contractor inspects the new flooring material during construction of the new dorm.



Photos: Sterrett Daniels

The dorm at Thule Air Base, Greenland, stands out against the Arctic snow-covered landscape. The steel structure has an insulated metal panel exterior, pitched standing metal roof, and stands on concrete footings.

The dorm's interior, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection systems are designed to withstand sub-zero temperatures.

Due to the extreme weather conditions, exterior construction work is limited to a 3-month period from June to mid-September. Temperatures in the winter range from minus 30 to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Thule has 24 hours of sunlight from May through August and 24 hours of darkness from November through February, leaving only the summer months for construction work on the exterior.

Kara's team worked 12-hour daily shifts during the summer months and worked on the interior during the winter months. It is also during the summer months that building supplies arrive. It is necessary that ice breaker ships clear the channel of ice to facilitate ship cargo deliveries.

The land is primarily composed of permafrost, permanently frozen ground below the earth's surface at 6 feet in some areas and up to 1,600 feet in others.

Most of the building material is pre-fabricated, allowing workers to rapidly perform construction. Building foundations also need to be elevated from the terrain. The dorm must sit on concrete supports and requires air corridors to separate the structure from the ground with one meter of clearance at the bottom of the structure. If not elevated, heat generated from the building would melt the permafrost and the building would sink.

Corps restores historic dam at Army Academy

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D, PPMD

This past winter, New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia districts began restoring the historic Lusk dam and reservoir at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point. The restoration began by cleaning and sealing leaks in the century-old structure. It was the dam's first cleaning in its 100-year history.

In 1895, the Corps of Engineers augmented the Academy's drinking water system by constructing the dam under the direction of Capt. James L. Lusk, a West Point graduate.

The dam is now considered by the USMA Historical Society as a significant element within the Academy's national historic landmark property.

Water from area ponds, creeks and brooks is piped into this reservoir and then purified by a treatment facility.

The dam is a masonry block structure, 225 feet in length and 35 feet high. During an Army Corps inspection years ago it was discovered that there were leaks behind a build-up of efflorescence. This raised concerns that there could be problems in the future if left unmonitored.

The stones were cleaned using a sandblasting technique in which small coarse grains of silica (glass-like particles) under high water pressure, removing the calcite build-up along the seams of stones. To accomplish this, workers stood on platforms, similar to those high-rise building window washers use. The platforms were lowered over the side of the dam's stone balustrade and the eight-foot wide brick walkway.

When the cleaning was completed, leaks were found and repaired. Plans include inspecting the structural condition of the dam's upstream face by a dive team for a thorough examination. The joints on the downstream face of the dam were also cleaned of efflorescence crystallization that had accumulated on its surface. Leaks that were covered by crystallization crust were located, cleaned and sealed. The cleaning



A worker uses small coarse grained silica under water pressure to clean the calcite build-up along the seams of the Lusk dam masonry stones.

provided a fresh face to observe and categorize leaks present and determine any further necessary repairs.

Marty Goff, project engineer for New York District, said it took one month to clean the dam and that the method used was similar to cleaning a shower stall that had lime build-up.

"Efflorescence is caused by the dissolving calcium carbonate in the dam's mortar with the reservoir water," explained Goff. "The water is slightly acidic, so it reacts chemically with the mortar between the dam's stones. When efflorescence builds up over the stones, it becomes difficult to determine the location of leaks because the water from the leak is diverted. The water from the leak is moving under the efflorescence crust and away from the leak source. By cleaning away the efflorescence, the actual location of the leaks were able to be seen."

Goff is optimistic about correlating the leak locations on the downstream face with the upstream face cracks which will allow them to determine future work.

Engineer judges projects at AISES fair

Lynn Bocamazo of Engineering Division represented the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair held in Albuquerque, N.M., in March. Bocamazo's participation was sponsored by Georgie Reynolds, USACE tribal liaison.

Bocamazo, a professional engineer, was the judge in the physics category of 5th, 6th, and 7th grade school student projects.

"Pamela Silas, executive director of AISES was especially pleased to have Lynn as a judge and invited her back next year," said Marty Goff, New York District EEO special emphasis program manager for Native American affairs.

AISES focuses on American Indian students to encourage them to pursue careers in engineering and science.



Lynn Bocamazo speaks with a student at the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair.

Corps coordination keeps motor vehicle station open during Superfund project

At the Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Plan Maywood Superfund Site in New Jersey, the goal for Allen Roos, project manager and Danny Lee, contracting officer of New York District is to safely and efficiently complete the Corps' mission with minimum impact to properties.

Remedial activities on a four-acre area of a 14-acre tract in Lodi owned by the State of New Jersey where a motor vehicle commission office, vehicle inspection station, and driver testing facility are located meant that nearly one-third of the area would be temporarily out of service.

Roos and Lee began coordination with facility personnel on the cleanup evolution and held frequent briefings regarding contaminants of concern, radiation safety, cleanup plans and schedule, and results of an indoor air survey.

The primary contaminant at Maywood is thorium, a natural radioactive element that was commercially extracted from sand at a chemical works from 1916 to 1959. Waste water containing residual amounts of thorium was pumped to disposal ponds or disposed of in onsite waste pits. Some of this material was eventually carried by run-off and flooding to a local stream.

The Corps has excavated and removed over 175,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from Maywood since 1997 and completion of all Maywood Site property cleanups is expected by 2012.



Remedial activities at the motor vehicle facility.

As remedial construction at the motor vehicle center got closer, coordination by the Corps and the facility operations became the priority. Several onsite meetings were held in 2005 in the run-up to remediation.

These meetings and site walkovers identified several areas of concern, such as temporary rerouting of inspection station waiting lanes, driver testing roads, impacts to employee and customer parking, and health and safety during construction.

Roos and Lee developed detailed site plans of proposed temporary facility operations. The plan for the temporary road test showed traffic patterns, locations for the various driver testing elements (backing, turning, parallel parking, etc.), locations of perimeter air monitoring stations, and safety buffers between the testing operation and the remedial work.

Source and photo by William Kollar, Community Relations Department of Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, contractor for the Maywood FUSRAP project.

Retirements

Howard B. Quinton of the Regulatory Branch, Eastern Permits Section, Operations Division retired in June after a 36-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Prior to working in Operations Division he worked in Contracting. A retirement luncheon was held in his honor at a local restaurant. Quinton was awarded the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service at a ceremony held in the Operations conference room June 20.

(l-r) Gordon Orlow, retired Corps employee and former union president; Howard Quinton; Frank Tangorra, Operations Division; and Barbara Crawford, Operations Division.



(Photo: Peter Shugert)



John Scialabba

John Scialabba of Logistics Management retired in April after 20 years of service with the Corps. Scialabba was the official driver for the past seven district commanders. Scialabba also performed vehicle operator duties which ensured employees reached their destination at a myriad of town hall meetings, community forums, inspections, and press events.

"John is a really good driver," said Stella Marco of Military Programs. "I always wanted to know what the red light in the car was for. I never did find out."

"He went the extra mile. And sometimes we had to host events, and we had to transport materials and John was never the type of guy who would leave it up to you to do it," said Carolyn Vadino of Harbor Programs.

"John is an excellent driver. He's a courteous driver, and he is a very nice man and it's always a pleasure to be with him," said Lou Benard, executive assistant.

"John is a true professional at all times," said Robert Goldfarb, Chief, Logistics Management.

"He's dependable. He's reliable. He's on time. All the time," said Peter Shugert, Chief Public Affairs. "When the Chief of Engineers would be with New York City media, he would be up at 4 o'clock in the morning, and be working around-the-clock delivering the Chief back to the airport."

Lymberis speaks at regional NACE symposium



Costas "Gus" Lymberis of New York District chaired the National Association of Corrosion Engineers, International Metropolitan New York Section corrosion symposium held in Hoboken, N.J. in February. The theme was Oil Refining, Chemicals, and Metals Refining.

The session was held at the Stevens Institute of Technology, where Lymberis was one of eight speakers. Lymberis was responsible for enrollment, and chairman of the session, as well as the afternoon program.

Lymberis spoke in the afternoon on the topic of copper refineries, metal and processing plants and refineries.



(Photo NACE)

NACE symposium speakers (l-r) Dennis Carezza, representative, Metropolitan New York Section 1 NACE, Cmdr. Eric Christiansen, U.S. Coast Guard, and Costas "Gus" Lymberis, chairman, Metropolitan New York Section of NACE.

Announcements

Urbanik receives national award



Gene Urbanik, area engineer, Army Corps' New Jersey Office, was the recipient of the 2006 Notable Achievement Award. The presentation ceremony was held in Washington, D.C., in April. He received the award for his role with the EPA Montclair/West Orange and Glen Ridge Project Team during the clean-up project of the Montclair/West Orange, and Glen Ridge Superfund sites in New Jersey.

The award recognizes excellence in regional waste management and emergency preparedness programs.

Ricks receives FEB Award



Milton Ricks received the New York Federal Executive Board award for Community Service. Ricks was presented the award at ceremony held on Ellis Island in May for his involvement in the community.

Seebode receives N.J. Public Heroism Award



Joseph Seebode, chief of business processes and special projects, received the New Jersey Public Heroism Award in May for saving the life of a man who was hypothermic and nearly unconscious. An excerpt from the citation read, "Having heard cries for help coming from the ocean, Joe swam 60 yards out to sea where he struggled to raise a nearly drowned victim above water before bringing him safely to shore."



Welcome Wagon

Paul Ancog, CO (Fort Drum)	Gerlyn Perlas, OP
Aleksander Andrzejewski, PPMD (Fort Drum)	Linda Kelly, RM
Jodi Dutta, EN	Gina Marie Kern, CO (NJ)
Mercedes Fernandez, HR	Gerlyn Perlas, OP
Vernie Flores, RM	Stuart Rounds, CO (Fort Drum)
Ngu Hoe, PPMD	Victoria Springs, RM
James Holmes, CO	Laiking Yee, RM
	George Yeoman, CO (Metro West)

Public Affairs chief receives USACE excellence award



Peter H. Shugert, Chief, Public Affairs, New York District is the recipient of the USACE 2006 Locke L. Mouton Award for excellence in media relations and public information. The announcement was made by Headquarters USACE in April.

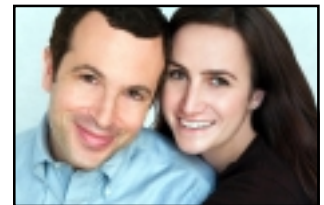
Shugert was selected from among USACE world wide public affairs professionals for the award. The announcement read, "Awarded for his hard work and dedication and as a valued member of the USACE public affairs community of practice."

Corps Kids



Megan McDonald sporting a N.Y. Yankees bib and ball cap was featured in *Parents Magazine*. Megan is the six-month-old daughter of Jodi McDonald, Chief, Rivers and Lakes Section of the Plan Formulation Branch.

Wedding Bells



Naomi R. Fraenkel of Planning Division and James Altschul were married March 25 at the Harvard Faculty Club in Cambridge, Mass. Fraenkel is a senior planner and economist for New York District who specializes in planning for commercial navigation. (Photo: Ryan Jensen)

Stars shine in 05 at New York District

2005 Commander's Awards

Frank Santangelo, Engineer of the Year
 Jamal Sulayman, Employee of the Year
 Lorraine Lee, Supervisor of the Year
 Kimberly Rightler, Professional of the Year
 Christopher Riccardi, Outstanding Scholar of the Year
 Madonna Camishion, Assistant of the Year
 Jean Hui, Outstanding Contribution of the Year
 Quan Than Nguyen, Outstanding Contribution of the Year
 Ronald Pinzon, Outstanding Scientific Achievement of the Year
 Juan Piniero, Administrator of the Year
 Gamal Awad, Field Representative of the Year
 Milton Ricks, Service to the Army Award
 Bhavesh Shah, Outstanding Government Improvement Award
 George Colon, Castle Award
 Sonny Knoop, Leadership Award
 Jerry Ye, Leadership Award
 Stephen DeNardis, Leadership Award
 Jenine Gallo, Health and Safety Award
 Jeffrey Fry, Health and Safety Award

Team of the Year Harbor Litigation Technical Analysis Support Team

Jeffrey Cusano
 Darin Damianti
 Robert Engler
 Bobbi Jo McCain
 Ronald Pinzon
 Tom Shea
 Ellen Simon
 Steven Weinberg



Project Delivery Team of the Year

USMA Arvin Physical Development Center Project Delivery Team

Jose Diaz, Jim Demetriou, Johnny Martinez
 Lawrence Danner, Jeffrey Fiese, Stephen DeNardis,
 Nicholas Multari, John Gerlach, and Andrew Smith



Driftmaster named Boat of the Year

The Corps' survey vessel *Driftmaster* 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 presented by Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District at a ceremony held in June at Caven Point, N.J. The *Driftmaster* won the award due to the outstanding performance of the crew of Richard Bulvid, Dan Florio, William Carl, Dan Redden, Adam Manzano and Mike Skalitzka.

The *Driftmaster* was selected from among the New York District fleet. *Driftmaster* 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.

An engraved plaque with a chronometer with the words "Safety and Efficiency" now enhances the bulkhead of the *Driftmaster* signifying the achievement.

The Boat of the Year Award was conceived in 1977. It is the only Support Branch competition and is awarded annually by the District commander. 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.



The vessel *Driftmaster* moored at Caven Point as her crew and Col. Polo display the safety and efficiency flag.

Work moves forward to restore fish and wildlife area

By Carolyn Vadino, Harbor Programs Branch

On July 6 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the National Park Service recognized the first phase of construction at the wetland restoration project at Elders Point Island in Jamaica Bay, N.Y.

It is part of an ongoing environmental mitigation program in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary that is being implemented in conjunction with the New York-New Jersey Harbor Deepening Project.

All material used during the construction phase will be biodegradable to enhance the environmental conditions of the national park. More than one and one-half million plants will be planted throughout the region and more than 143 acres of wetlands will be restored.

“Working with our partners, this project is the first step toward the long and complex journey of addressing the salt marsh loss within Jamaica Bay that was brought to the attention of the federal government by local stakeholders. It also shows our commitment to balancing the needs of the environment with that of deepening the Port of New York and New Jersey,” said Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

“During the first phase, more than \$13 million of construction activity to restore the environment at this site that will provide 70 acres of wetlands for our harbor estuary. This will be the first large scale marsh island restored, building on the Big Egg pilot, under the District’s Jamaica Bay Marsh Islands Ecosystem Restoration Program and will further our larger goals within the Harbor Estuary Program through the preservation and restoration of ecologically important habitat and communities that support an optimum diversity of living resources such as fish, wildlife, and plant communities,” said Polo.

Jamaica Bay contributes significantly to the overall vigor of the New York and New Jersey Harbor Estuary. The marsh islands ecosystem is an integral part of Jamaica Bay and is a refuge for a variety of wildlife. It also provides valuable habitat for fish species as well as a nursery for juvenile, migratory birds.

In total, approximately 70 acres of marsh will be restored on Elders Point with a net increase of 61 acres. Originally one island comprised of approximately 132 acres, the loss of marsh in the center portion severed the two ends, resulting in two separate islands connected by mudflat. The restoration plan for Elders East and Elders West includes restoring the existing vegetated areas and the sheltered and exposed mudflats by placing fill material up to an elevation that is suitable for low marsh growth. To do so, the Corps is pumping more than 270,000 cubic yards of sand that was dredged from various channels in the harbor.

Additionally, more than 700,000 plants will be hand planted on Elders East and some 200,000 planted on Elders West. Plants include *Spartina alterniflora* (saltmarsh cordgrass), *Spartina patens* (salt hay), and *Distichis spicata* (spike grass).

Through its Plant Materials Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service has overseen the collection and germination of the seeds, which began with seed collection in the fall of 2005. The PMP is conserving the genetic plant resources of the location by using seed collected near the restoration site. The plants were grown and transported from the Plant Materials Centers in Cape May, N.J., Beltsville, Md. Alderson, W.Va., and East Lansing, Mich.

The Corps awarded the contract for the Elders (East) to Galvin Brothers of Great Neck, N.Y. The restoration is being performed by the State of New York and the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program.



The restoration plan for Elders East and Elders West includes restoring the existing vegetated areas and the sheltered and exposed mudflats by placing fill material up to an elevation that is suitable for low marsh growth.

District celebrates Earth Day with New Jersey students



On the dock, students rotated through stations that included visual exhibits such as touch tanks and aquariums with marine life, as well as interactive pollution displays, water quality testing and an exhibit depicting the life of an oyster.

By Carolyn Vadino, Harbor Programs Branch

More than 200 area students joined environmental community leaders throughout the region to celebrate Earth Day at the Elizabeth, N.J. Marina City dock in April.

This is the third Earth Day event that was hosted by the Arthur Kill/Elizabeth River Watershed Association. In conjunction with Estuary Day in September, to date, more than two thousand area students have participated in activities since its inception. The event was sponsored by the Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association in conjunction with City of Elizabeth, the Elizabeth Marina, and the offices of N.J. Sen. Robert Menendez and Rep. Donald M. Payne.

Students from various high schools, middle schools, and a local academy spent the morning learning about the health of the New York and New Jersey Harbor estuary, the effects of pollution, and the everyday importance of Earth Day through interactive educational exhibit stations.

The exhibit stations were hosted and taught by a variety of professionals in the academic and environmental field including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Harbor Estuary Program, New Jersey Sea Grant, the New York and New Jersey Baykeeper, and Keane University.

The program kicked off with an environmental harbor inspection aboard the Corps vessel *Hocking*, where students on deck observed various sites in the Arthur Kill Channel. On deck students also learned about the historical significance of Shooter's Island, observed various types of habitat living in the estuary, and received an overview of significant, ongoing Corps activities to improve the watershed.

"Earth Day was a great opportunity to energize the students of Elizabeth, our future environmental leaders, about the health of their own estuary in the New York and New Jersey Harbor, and understand the connection between land and water," said Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge, former Deputy District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "Students had an opportunity to speak openly with Corps biologists, engineers, archeologist, and other partners to learn about the rich history of the harbor, its current state and got a hands-on view of its marine life and ongoing port activities."



Tidbits

By Mary Stavina

Did you know?

The race horse Secretariat was once owned by Christopher T. Chenery, an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during World War I.

Chenery was born in Richmond, Va., in September 1886. Serving in the Corps for three years, he reached the rank of major.



He went on to become a successful businessman in the water, gas, and pipeline industry.

Named by Chenery's daughter and his executive secretary, Secretariat was featured on the front cover of numerous magazines. Secretariat was named one of the top athletes of the twentieth century by ESPN, and was considered to be among the greatest thoroughbred race horses ever.

(Source: USACE Office of History)

American Indian performers display their talent

The EPA Building was the site of a American Indian dance performance arranged by Kristen Davis-Smythe of New York District.

Davis-Smythe coordinated the event with GSA and hosted the performance by American Indian tribal dancers from three tribal nations.

Mary Goff, EEO special emphasis program manager for Native American programs, was on hand along with Corps and GSA employees. Attendees were invited to bring their lunch and enjoy the traditional American Indian music, dance, singing and regalia. The dancers were dressed in traditional American Indian tribal attire made from deer skins, bird feathers and bison along with face paint. They displayed their musical talent during a group and solo performance using drums, the flute and rattles.

Mike Day Wolf, Raymond Two Feathers, and Louis Sky Cloud made up the trio from the Hopi, Chaqua and Cherokee nations.

Performances included the hoop, warrior, feather and flute dances, and a musical performance of the flute, rattles and drums. Attendees were invited to join in the feather dance in which the dancer must pick up a feather from the floor using his or her mouth. A question and answer period also was included and the event ended with a coin presentation.



(l-r) Mike Day Wolf, Kristen Davis-Smythe, Raymond Two Feathers, and Louis Sky Cloud.

Photos: Vince Elias

Louis Sky Cloud directs Tom Smythe of New York District during his participation in the feather dance.



Journalist sparks Asian-Pacific Heritage event

The Corps of Engineers and GSA teamed up and sponsored this year's Asian-American Heritage Month program.

The EEO arranged for local television award-winning news reporter Ti-Hua Chang to be the featured guest. Chang spoke about his career as a journalist to a packed audience and also posed with employees and signed autographs. Traditional Asian food was also served.

Chang was previously an investigative producer with a major national news network, and has won four Emmy awards and Press Association awards.

He is active in Asian-American community affairs, and was both a national and local New York Board member of the Asian-American Journalists Association. Chang also has been published in a number of magazines.



(l-r) Maj. Charlotte Rhee of Contracting and Lorraine Lee of the Office of Counsel take a moment for a photo opportunity with Ti-Hua Chang.

Corps builds new military entrance processing station

Construction began in April of a new Military Entrance Processing Station in Syracuse, N.Y., at the Hancock Air National Guard Base.

Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District was at the groundbreaking along with John Steinbeck, Fort Drum resident engineer, District representatives Brett Gorham, Joseph Wojnas, Donald Hale and Armando Jimenez, project engineer of New York District.

The contractor is Northland Associates and Lisa Bobotas of NAO is the team leader and Joseph Wojnas of New York District is the project engineer.

“The scope of work includes the construction of a modified standard design of a MEPS facility,” said Jimenez. “The facility will have a reception area, offices, medical laboratory, changing rooms, mail room, fire sprinkler suppression system and communication closets. An intrusion detection system, and energy monitoring and control system will be installed.”



Photo: Armando Jimenez

The MEPS is being built at the Hancock Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, N.Y.

Supporting facilities include utilities, electric service, fire protection and alarm systems, paving, walks, curbs and gutters; parking; storm drainage and storm water management, information systems, and site improvements. Heating and air conditioning will be provided by a self-contained unit. Security measures include appropriate setback distances from the installation boundary and adjacent roadways and parking areas, bollards, concrete planters, curbs and gutters, and laminated glass.

District team responds to Arkansas tornado disaster

Three major tornadoes ravaged northeast Arkansas in April. Two registered F3 and one registered F1 on the Fujita Scale. The tornadoes touched down in the communities of Marmaduke, Wynne, and Ravensden. In the hardest hit community of Marmaduke, over 150 homes were damaged or destroyed in a community of 1,100 people. FEMA received the presidential disaster declaration authorizing the government to provide individual and public assistance as well as temporary housing. This was the green light the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needed to proceed with the solicitation for mobile home installations.

The first contract for hauling and installing mobile homes was awarded. Following a brief pre-construction conference with the contractor, trailers began moving from the FEMA national mobilization area in Hope, Ark., to the staging area in Marmaduke.

As the mission evolved, additional members of housing team arrived to execute the mission including Randall Hintz, mission manager, New York District temporary housing team; Milton Ricks, mission specialist, and Walter Grauling and Tim LaFontaine, quality assurance team leaders.

The team was supplemented by quality assurance inspectors with Little Rock District.

“Although the scale of this mission appeared much smaller in scope when compared to the USACE response to Katrina, it nevertheless reflected highly on New York and Little Rock Districts as well as FEMA,” said Hintz.



Members of the Corps housing team execute the mission in Arkansas.

Security Office lists vacation crime prevention tips

Crime prevention tips to deter burglars from targeting your residence while you are away on vacation:

- Don't widely broadcast your vacation plans. This should be considered "need-to-know" information.
- Make sure a trusted neighbor knows your itinerary and has a telephone number to reach you in case of an emergency.
- Stop delivery of mail and newspapers. If possible have someone pick these items up daily, as mail or circulars or unexpected packages can also be delivered.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn and remove leaves and arrange for them to place garbage cans at the curb on collection days to make your home appear lived in.
- Use automatic timers to turn lights on at different times and in different rooms, mimicking your normal activity as much as possible.

- Turn off your telephone ringer. An unanswered telephone ringing loudly with no pick up is a sure sign that no one is home. When using an answering machine or voice mail, don't announce your absence on your message.

- Leave blinds like you normally would if you were home. Only close them all the way if that is what you normally do.

- Close and lock your garage door, storage sheds, gates, etc.

- Ask a trusted neighbor or relative to occasionally park their vehicle in your driveway. If you are leaving a vehicle parked outside, have them move it periodically so it appears as though you are home.

- Activate your home alarm system. Prior to your vacation check with your service provider to make sure your alarm system is functioning properly and complete repairs or preventative maintenance if necessary.

Taps



A funeral service was held June 18 for **Pedro Pichardo** of Construction Division, who passed away.

He had over 20 years of service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers working in Resource Management and Construction Division as a program analyst.

"He was always willing to help and assist others — from the project engineers in the field offices, to his fellow employees in New York District," said George DeMarinis, Chief, Administrative Services Section, Construction Division. "Pedro touched everyone he met in a special way. He will best be remembered as a person who could light up a room with his smile and mere presence."

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Change of Command Issue

Col Polo passes the torch to Col Tortora

Retirement of of 48th District Engineer

2006 Employee Recognition Day – Awardees and picnic Photos

Announcements



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