



# The New York District Times

9/11/01  
In honor of  
lives lost



Winter 2002

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

## Improvements abound at Army academy

By Ken Wells

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has always been an integral part of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. The Corps has been responsible for the insight associated with construction contracts and architectural structures that presently dot the landscape. Over the past few months, the academy has undergone a visual transformation.

New York District is overseeing several ongoing construction and renovation projects at the nation's oldest military post in continuous operation.

Many of these projects have significantly enhanced the quality of life of the residents, cadets and employees and retained the historic appearance.

Recent projects include the high quality design and renovation project of the Arvin Gym, Kimsey Athletic Center, Thomas Jefferson Library, and New Brick Housing.

### PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION OF ARVIN GYM

Since 1802, the Academy has been training our nation's soldiers in the doctrines and procedures that allow them to effectively serve this country. Now with a little help from the Corps of Engineers, West



Photo Peter Shugert

Construction projects at the U. S. Military Academy, West Point include the Arvin Gym, Kimsey Athletic Center, Thomas Jefferson Library, and New Brick Housing.

Point is about to take a major step forward with the construction of its new physical development center.

Meticulously planned, Arvin Gymnasium will become the "backbone of the academy's physical education program" as envisioned by Dr. Tom Horn, director of faculty operations and program support for West Point and Lawrence Danner, project engineer for New York District.

According to Horn, the original plan for the physical development center involved renovating West Point's historic Hayes gym.

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**District welcomes new division commander**

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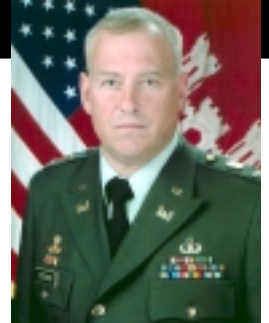
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US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New York District

## Colonel's Corner

As we come to the end of the year 2002 I would like to thank everyone for the successful execution of our fiscal year 2002 programs. Once again you distinguished yourselves by accomplishing all of our missions. The program had many challenges that we tackled almost with ease. I would like to thank you all for your hard work in FY 2002 and ask that you continue your high level of performance as we embark on the execution of our FY2003 programs.



Col. John B. O'Dowd  
District Engineer

The New York District has numerous high visibility projects with national significance. In this issue of the "District Times" we have included several articles highlighting our military construction in support of the United States Military Academy at West Point. I would like to briefly describe how our work at West Point directly contributes to the security of the Nation.

The Military Academy was founded by President Thomas Jefferson in 1802. Its mission was to train officers in the arts and sciences of warfare. Over the past two centuries West Point has produced leaders for our nation.

The names Grant, Lee, Pershing, Eisenhower, MacArthur, Bradley and countless more are known to every American. All of these distinguished Americans began their lifetimes of service to the nation at West Point. Tens of thousands of other West Point graduates have served the nation over the past 200 years. The mission of the Military Academy today remains as it has been:

"To educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country; professional growth throughout a career as an officer in the United States Army; and a lifetime of selfless service to the nation."

To accomplish this, the military academy develops cadets through three programs. These programs are military, academic and physical development. Two of the projects highlighted in this issue directly facilitate instruction in two of the three core programs. The Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center, currently under construction, will be the primary physical development facility. This center will house all of the facilities for physical instruction and support the intramural sports program. The Thomas Jefferson Hall, currently under design, will house the library and thus support the academic development program. These two facilities will be at the center of the physical and academic development programs. In addition to these two facilities which directly contribute to West Point accomplishing its mission, numerous other facilities which support soldiers and their families are being built by the New York District. Your hard work is directly contributing to training the leaders of tomorrow for the Army and our nation. You should all be proud of what you do.

As we move through the holiday season I urge you all to take time to relax and enjoy the company of your family and friends. Please remember to celebrate safely, as there is much to be done in 2003. Molly and I wish you and yours a happy holiday season and I look forward to working hard again next year. Thanks for all you do.

*Essayons!*

*USMA West Point (Cont'd from page 1)*

However, careful inspection revealed the grand old structure to be devoid of master plans, unable to accommodate the handicapped, and in need of a complete electrical overhaul. Additionally, there was no room for male and female locker space, while the building itself required seismic upgrades.

So many issues, coupled with the funding required to correct them made the renovation project cost prohibitive, so instead a plan was forged to build a new gymnasium within the building footprint of the old one. A task force was assembled and sent to such schools as Yale, the Naval Academy, Air Force Academy and the University of Georgia. These institutions possess state-of-the-art facilities and provide good working models from which the Corps of Engineers and West Point officials could determine exactly what they needed to better serve the interests of the modern cadet.

“The Army, unlike its brethren in the Navy and Air Force, places a higher priority on ground-based exercises,” Horn stated. “Therefore we need a physical development center designed to meet that type of curriculum.”

To this end, the Army Corps and West Point officials are doing everything in their power to ensure that the new Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center will be a state-of-the-art facility designed to eliminate all the downfalls of its predecessor and better aid cadets in their transformation into soldiers of the new millennium.

Once funding for the project was granted, the Army Corps set to work on building the 350,000-square-foot structure that would support not only the student body but the intramural and club team programs as well. Part of the challenge involved integrating the old add-on buildings with separate utility systems into a modern, efficient complex. The Corps also had to secure the roadway behind the construction site by installing braces beneath it to prevent a cave-in during excavation work.

Division I-AA varsity wrestling and swimming teams will be stationed in Arvin, while the football, basketball and hockey teams are slated to begin operating out of the Kimsey Athletic Center this spring.

The physical development center will also serve as social gathering place for many of the cadets, who aren't permitted access to motorized transportation until their senior year. Highland Falls isn't a very large town, so it can become somewhat of a challenge for underclassmen to find suitable



Photo: Francis Delfino

The 350,000-square-foot Arvin Gym will support the student body and the intramural and club team programs.

diversions when they aren't studying or training. To try and combat this problem, Horn said Arvin will also feature lounges for parties, and other amenities for the cadet enjoyment.

Until Arvin is completed, West Point's student population will conduct classes in temporary facilities making use of whatever space is available. However, while NCAA sports and casual interaction are part of Arvin's purpose, transforming our nation's youth into better soldiers remains the primary goal. “Arvin is a classroom like any other,” Horn pointed out.

Taking this statement to heart, the Corps of Engineers will be installing three Olympic-size swimming pools that can be used for survival swimming classes. New cadets are required to take 19 lessons in swimming and each is carefully screened to determine his or her level of proficiency.

*(Continued on next page)*

### USMA West Point (Cont'd from previous page)

Experienced beginners are allowed to move onto scuba diving if they so desire, while all the classes focus on a cadet being able to handle himself or herself in deep water with combat gear in tow.

The military movements curriculum will be accommodated via rope climbing apparatuses, obstacle courses and a special maze whose artificial twists and turns will require students to navigate the terrain while confronting dangerous situations. The Army Corps will also be adding handball and racquetball courts, cycling machines, physical therapy rooms and aerobic equipment.

West Point's personal fitness and welfare courses stand to benefit from the additional space too, since they focus on teaching a student how to set up fitness areas for their units when transferring from place to place in the field.

The new space provides a rebirth as well to widespread judo and martial arts activities for the academy's 4,000 cadets. In total, Arvin will boast three swimming pools, nine individual gymnasiums and three weight rooms.

"Once the physical development center is completed, we'll be much better at building lean, mean, fighting machines," Horn promised.

Arvin's construction will be done in three phases at a cost of nearly \$100 million. The contractor for the project is J. Kokolakakis Contracting, Inc., located in Rocky Point, N.Y., with the facility scheduled for completion by April 2005. The gymnasium is scheduled to open to cadets at the start of the 2006 academic year.

### KIMSEY ATHLETIC CENTER

When fans trekked up to Michie Stadium this year to see the Black Knights play football, they had a chance to witness not only the present team, but its future as well. That's because located immediately adjacent and south of Michie stadium is the soon-to-be completed Kimsey Athletic Center.

"We are a Division I-A football program with Division III facilities," said Robert D'Jovin, a project manager for the Directorate of Housing and Public Works

for the United States Military Academy. "Kimsey Athletic Center will help us correct that problem."

New York District's Public Affairs department recently sat down with D'Jovin and New York District project manager Joan Crawford to take an in-depth look at how the athletic center will benefit not only the football program but the basketball and hockey teams as well.

Originally slated to be called the Michie Stadium Athletic Complex, the project received both a name change and significant financial boost from James Kimsey, a West Point alumnus, circa class of '62, who donated \$7 million to the project. Kimsey's donation makes this the largest gift West Point has received to date and the money is being used in both the design and construction phases.

Once the project is completed, Kimsey will serve as a 4-story football operations building designed to centralize the football team's activities and facilitate the development of Randall Hall, another new athletic facility that will be built atop the remains of the Annex, which is scheduled to be demolished as soon as the football team moves into Kimsey in the spring of 2003.



Photo: Francis Delfino

Robert D'Jovin, project manager, directorate of housing and public works, USMA and Joan Crawford, project manager for N.Y. District, display a model of the Kimsey Athletic Center.

*USMA West Point (Cont'd from previous page)*

Randall Hall, which is named after the late Bob Randall, circa class of '56, will serve as the new base of operations for West Point's basketball and hockey teams. It will be accessible through Kimsey courtesy of a connecting bridge.

The Annex is an outdated facility with too little space to accommodate today's modern athletes and their equipment, particularly in the off-season when inclement weather can become a factor. Some of the



Workers drill holes in the foundation of Arvin Gym in preparation for pouring cement.

challenges the Corps of Engineers faced in building Kimsey included realigning the roads directly outside Michie Stadium, which used to run directly through the Kimsey site and wrap around toward the rear of the stadium. Natural rock needed to be excavated along with a tremendous amount of utilities, which were relocated outside the building footprint.

D'Jovin went on to explain that Kimsey's designers planned to make good use of the improved space by designating each floor for specific purposes. For instance, the first floor houses the player equipment and lockers with provisions for 151 players, a shower room and a sports medicine department that includes a therapy pool and Jacuzzi.

The second floor will be the athletic center's main lobby and strength development center, a department that includes a weight room more than three times the size of its predecessor in the Annex at 20,000 square feet. The old weight room by comparison was only 6,000 square feet. Other improvements to Kimsey's strength development center include a 40-yard sprint track, administration unit, and equipment repair facility.

"Visitors will be able to access the building through elevators and stairwells located in the main lobby as well," D'Jovin said. "Coaches and players will be given separate elevators and stairways for their own personal use."

Coaches' offices will be located on the third floor along with recruitment offices, support administrative staff, audio-visual equipment, interview areas for the media, and meeting rooms for the offensive and defensive units. There are also plans to transform 6,000 square feet of space in the southern end of the third floor into a Hall of Army Sports where the accomplishments of all 26 athletic teams past, present and future will be memorialized.

The fourth floor is designated as a multipurpose room capable of holding 300 people and dividing into three smaller rooms. It contains two open-air balconies that provide a view directly into the stadium below. "The multipurpose room can also be rented out for tailgating parties, retirement gatherings and a number of other functions," D'Jovin explained. "There is even a food preparation room where the stadium caterer can warm up different types of meals to be served."

The roof level or penthouse will house all the mechanical functions such as boiler and air circulation units. It also provides an ideal location for filming Saturday's games on the north side and Monday-Friday practice on the south side.

The Kimsey Athletic Center is scheduled for completion in April 2003. The project will cost \$25 million and the contractor is J. Kokolakis Contracting, Inc, located in Rocky Point, N.Y.

*(Continued on next page)*

*USMA West Point (Cont'd from previous page)*

## INTERACTIVE LEARNING CENTER

Groundbreaking for the new Thomas Jefferson Hall Library at West Point is scheduled in April 2004. The new facility will be an interactive learning center.

The current library was built in 1964 and is no longer capable of meeting the space or technological demands of today's students. "We removed our card catalogues in 1981 to make room for the first generation of computers at West Point," said Joseph Barth, head librarian. "And when we did, new utilities and cable had to be installed in order to accommodate the changes.

"Since then, we've had to repeat the process every five years to keep up with technological innovations and each time the utilities and cables required more work."

The new facility will integrate library and learning center functions such as collections, user services, administration, collection development, technical services, staff support, public services and support services. There will be 10 meeting rooms to accommodate students and provisions for wireless access that will allow cadets to log onto the library's network using a personal laptop.

The building's exterior will also require some additional cosmetic features such as granite facing and local historic details because of the site's location in the Academy's history district. Once work on Thomas Jefferson Hall is completed, the old library will undergo an extensive renovation of its own. The building's first floor and basement will be converted to an archive and special collections area. The rest of the building will be incorporated into Bartlet Hall next door, which is home to West Point's science and physics department.

The contractor is STM Construction and the completion date is April 2006. The staff will move into the facility during the summer of 2006 and open its doors to cadets at the beginning of the fall semester.

## HOUSING GETS A FACE LIFT

Call it a West Point version of "This Old House" with the Corps playing the role of Bob Vila. Because that is precisely

what New York District is doing with its New Brick Housing revitalization project at the United States Military Academy.

New York District started work in November 2001 on a three-phase plan that will build 156 field grade officers quarters in multiples of 51, 51, and 54 units with several designated for handicapped occupancy.

According to John Pavone, project manager for New York District, the two-story single-family houses will be completely gutted and re-worked to include new roofs, doors, windows, interior plumbing, electrical and HVAC ductwork. The Corps will also handle the exterior issues, which include incorporating primary and secondary utilities into the existing electrical system and paving new roadways.

The District also decided to take some steps to enlarge the houses by combining two of the small bedrooms into one, reducing the total number from four to three and designating the newly created area as the master bedroom. Space has also been allocated for first-floor family and dining areas. The laundry center also received a dramatic transformation, going from a place to store the washer and dryer to a family room.

Additions at the rear of the house include a kitchen on the first floor and a third bedroom on the second. Enclosed porches were also added to the backyard and will be surrounded by a four-foot fence. Each unit will contain two full and one half-bathroom with completion of the first set scheduled for mid-May 2003.

Volmar Construction, located in Brooklyn, N.Y., is the contractor for this project.



Photo: Francis Delfino

**Bulldozer excavates the soil around the new brick housing unit at the Academy in preparation for the installation of new sewer and plumbing pipes.**

# District offers students employment opportunities

By Joanne Castagna, PPMD

New York District recently took part in a series of job fairs held in the tri-state area. Mercedes Fernandez of Human Resources, Tony Levesanos, deputy chief of Programs and Project Management Division, and Abraham Medina-Vega, civil engineer from Engineering Division staffed a Corps of Engineers brochure table at area colleges and universities.

School students were afforded the opportunity to learn about employment opportunities within the Corps.

“My mother worked for the Army in Albania. I think that working for a branch of the U.S. Army would provide me a different experience and more

responsibility than just working for an average engineering company,” said interested candidate Elda Bruza, civil engineering sophomore.

“I signed up for the Army last summer and was



(l-r) While at one of New York City’s colleges, Anthony Levesanos, Mercedes Fernandez, and Abraham Medina-Vega of New York District distribute information and literature at the District’s job fair table.

turned down due to a medical condition. Now as an engineering major, this may be my way in at least in a different role,” said Theron Lammie, engineering sophomore.



Photo: Mercedes Fernandez

Tony Levesanos (left) communicates information about the Corps to an interested individual at the District’s job fair table.

## Corps family-member displays talent

Jennifer Christa, talented daughter of skilled lawyer Jim Palmer of New York District’s Office of Counsel, was contracted in November to play the role of Olive Oyl at Universal Studios Orlando resort family theme park in Orlando, Florida.

She is a graduate of Penn State University’s School of Arts and Architecture, and has worked as an actor since high school. She and her husband most recently performed as the comedy and sword-fighting duo “To the Hilt!” at Renaissance Faires in Texas, Massachusetts, Colorado, Tennessee and Florida.

Christa was also seen as the pirate queen Grace O’Malley at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.



Jennifer Christa as Olive Oyl

# NAD changes commanders



Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, passing the Corps flag to the incoming commander, formally transferring command from the outgoing commander. Passing the flag is a time-honored military tradition, formally marking the transition from one commander to a successor.

Prior to his December promotion to brigadier general, then-colonel Merdith W. B. "Bo" Temple relieved Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades as commander of North Atlantic Division at a ceremony held Nov. 25 at Fort Hamilton.



(l-r) Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers; Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades, outgoing commander; and Brig. Gen. Merdith W. B. Temple, new division commander.



## District welcomes NAD commander and family to the Big Apple



Stuart Piken, Deputy District Engineer, PPMD welcomes Brig. Gen. Temple.



Brig. Gen. Temple, NAD Commander and Col. John B. O'Dowd, New York District Commander.



Mrs. O'Dowd, welcomes Mrs. Temple and family to New York.

Lt. Col. Douglas Sarver, Deputy Commander greets Mrs. Temple.







# Service Awards

## 15 Years

Sharoyah Bala, SE  
 Thomas Battaglia, CO  
 Jovencio Cariaga, OP  
 Raymond Drayton, OP  
 Thomas Enroth, PPMD  
 Heidi Firstencel, OP  
 Dale Gamache, RE  
 Donald Harris, OC  
 Randall Hintz, OP  
 Constantine Karathanasis, CO  
 Loretta Parris, CT  
 Alisa Pittman, RE  
 Diane Rahoy, EN  
 Reginald Smith, OP  
 Monique Wiggins, RM  
 Vanessa Woolford, RE  
 Thomas Wyche, OP

## 5 Years

Ivan Damaso, PL  
 Heather Durr, CO  
 Mark Forte, OP  
 Jenine Gallo, PL  
 Frederick Hand, EN  
 Ron Kustowski, EN  
 Charles Monroe, EN  
 John Mooney, OP  
 Joseph Mulle, RE  
 Beth Nash, OP  
 Thanh Nguyen, IM  
 Francis Postiglione, OP  
 Patrick Racine, OP  
 Steven Simon, OP  
 Andrew Smith, CO  
 Wesley Terry, IM  
 Donna Vaughan, EEO

## 10 Years

Rodney Abrams, EN  
 Gezahegne Assegid, EN  
 Bennett Baker, EN  
 Nancy Brighton, PL  
 Mark Burlas, PL  
 William Carl, OP  
 Anthony Ciorra, PPMD  
 John Connell, OP  
 Michael DeBenedictis, CO  
 Christine Delorier, OP  
 Stephen DiBari, EN  
 Barbara Dindl, RE  
 Janet Fallo, PPMD  
 Daniel Florio, OP  
 Jeffrey Frye, PPMD  
 Robert Gerrits, EN  
 Daniel Karlok, OP  
 John Kenny, CO  
 Neal Kolb, CO  
 Mark Kucera, CO  
 Costas Lymberis, CO  
 Michael Marcello, OP  
 Patrick Nejang, CO  
 Christina Rasmussen, EN  
 Howard Ruben, PL  
 Craig Spitz, OP  
 Dennis Swain, OP  
 Rein Virkman, OP  
 Herman Wine, PPMD

## Marathon Man



**Peter Blum of Planning Division**

Marathon runner Peter Blum of planning division recently laced up his sneakers and completed the 26-mile marathon in Philadelphia. It was the first time Blum participated in the run. Blum, an avid runner has also competed in the New York City marathon for the third year in a row.

## Chiefs lauded for 9-11 performance



**Shugert**

Peter Shugert, Chief Public Affairs received the Superior Civilian Service Award for his performance immediately following the attack on New York City in Sept. 2001. Col. John O'Dowd, District Commander presented the award to Shugert in December. Shugert and his staff were instrumental in communicating critical information and disseminating news information.

Wardwell Leo, Chief of Information Management received a medal in December from Col. O'Dowd, District Engineer for his outstanding performance following the attack on America on Sept. 11, 2001. Leo and his staff worked at Fort Hamilton to keep the District computers operational during the critical time.



**Leo**

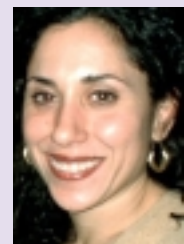
## Farewell



**Redican**

Former Engineer of the Year Joseph Redican of Planning Division left New York District in December for the warmer climate of Florida and a position at the Corps' Jacksonville District.

Kerry Luisi of Planning Division also left New York for the warmer climate in Jacksonville FL, where she accepted a position with the Corps' Jacksonville District.



**Luisi**

# District ensures safety of endangered birds

By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD

Within the bays of the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway, a small portion of the entire water system, and the location for the New York District's Long Island Intracoastal Waterway Dredging Project, a multi-agency effort is using dredged sand to create a habitat for several species of endangered shore birds.

New York District assembled a team to look for opportunities to enhance the environment with dredged material on Long Island. Team members included staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Region 1), New York State Department of State, National Park Service (Fire Island National Seashore), and the Town of Brookhaven.

"By dredging more frequently in smaller areas, we will only need a few smaller places to dispose the material each time. Instead of dredging 200,000 cubic yards and 25 miles of channel, we will dredge only 80,000 cubic yards in one segment of the bay," said John Tavolaro, chief of Operations Support Branch, New York District.

In September 2002 the Long Island Intracoastal Dredging Project began. The team decided to place the dredged sand on East Inlet Island, a 30-acre island one-half mile off the Town of Moriches mainland, to enhance habitat for several endangered shore bird species, including least terns, common terns, piping plovers, and roseate terns.

The bird populations have recently dropped due in part to increasing human development and recreation where they migrate in the springtime to nest and breed. The Long Island coast is one of their nesting areas. In the fall they fly south for the winter.

"Placing the dredged sand on an island is better for the birds than dumping the sand on the mainland," said Tavolaro. "Placing the sand on an island that is relatively untouched by people and other predators gives the new habitat a chance to survive and thrive. An island is more protected than a mainland area. It has water around it. Just a few feet of water is a deterrent to many predators."

Innerspace Services, a Maine contractor, conducted all of the dredging from mid October 2002 to mid January 2003, outside the region's winter floun-



Piping plover

der spawning season, public recreational activity, and the months the birds are around. "If one bird showed up we might have had to close up shop. We couldn't afford such a contingency," said Tavolaro.

The company dredged approximately 5 miles of the Moriches Bay from the Village of West Moriches to the Village of East Moriches. They dredged 1300 cubic yards of sand a day, to an authorized depth of 6 feet below mean low water, said Jodi McDonald, project manager. The dredged sand was pumped onto the East Inlet Island by a hydraulic dredge and pipeline into a specified disposal area. The sand was pumped into a diked disposal area and then regraded to achieve the proper slope and texture preferred by nesting birds.

"To help encourage the birds to nest on the island, we made the habitat more friendly by de-vegetating the island and building nest boxes to replicate the habitat needs of these threatened and endangered shorebirds. We also placed string fencing and interpretive signage reminding the public that the area is restricted from human use. To ensure project success we also developed a predator control program, in the event land predators, such as foxes, feral cats or raccoons, are identified on the site. The area will be maintained and monitored by biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Town of Brookhaven (the island's owner) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation," said Steve Mars, supervisor of the Long Island Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The agencies came up with something innovative where everyone won," said Tavolaro. "The U.S. Coast Guard received a cleared bay channel so they could more effectively perform their search and rescue operations; the State of New York received environmental enhancement of a degraded upland area and preserved an island, many of which are disappearing in the region; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service got a net environmental benefit for endangered species they are responsible to manage, and the Corps fulfilled its navigation mission while making an effort to benefit the environment, at no additional cost to the taxpayers."

The project was funded entirely by the Federal Government. "The stakeholders are very much in favor of this type of work. The Town of Brookhaven and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are even suggesting other islands to us," said Tavolaro. "If this goes as we hope and we see birds nesting there in the spring, I think this will reinforce the importance of such a project."

# Area residents to get needed flood protection

At the request of Morris, N.J., the Corps will implement the first of three-phases of the flood damage reduction project along the McKeel Brook in Morris County, New Jersey.

McKeel Brook is a small stream located in Dover and Rockaway, N.J., that runs about two miles from the highlands north of Route 80 in Rockaway Township to the Rockaway River. The 1.4-square-mile watershed includes about 220 homes.

Col. John B. O'Dowd, New York District Engineer, signed the McKeel Brook Section 205 Flood Control Project PCA Dec. 5, 2002.

According to Gail Woolley, project planner, the \$6.9 million project calls for installing drains and twin concrete box culverts to divert floodwaters to the Rockaway River.

The project also includes construction of 1,640 feet of twin, 4-by-8-foot culverts from one section to a system that will connect with an existing culvert.

New York District will seek bids for the project in early January 2003 and will select a contractor by spring, said Paul Sabalis, project manager.

Work is expected to begin in early summer, and will take 18 months to complete, he said.

"Morris County is in the process of buying rights-of-way and some easements to facilitate the work," Sabalis said.

"The project also involves some bank stabilization along the brook, and replacing the outflow structure of a detention basin near the Rockaway Mall," said Woolley. "We expect the construction project to begin in the summer of 2003."



Photo: Vince Elias

Col. John B. O'Dowd, New York District Engineer, signed the McKeel Brook Section 205 Flood Control Project PCA Dec. 5, 2002. (Standing l-r) Walter Scott, EN; Paul Sabalis, project manager, PL; Doug Leite, PPMD, Bob Hass, RE; (seated l-r) Col. John O'Dowd, DE; Gail Woolley, project planner, PL; Ellen Simon, OC; and Stan Nuremburg, RE.



## Tidbits

### Did you know?

The Corps oversaw the construction of much of Afghanistan's modern road network.

As part of an overall effort to promote stronger relations with the indigenous government, counter Soviet influence, and encourage internal trade and political cohesion, during the 1960s the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversaw a program to modernize Afghanistan's primitive system of roads. Throughout this rugged and mountainous country snaked a

rudimentary highway system consisting of a 1,700-mile circle of rock-bed and dirt roads linking principal towns and cities. The Gulf District of the Mediterranean Division was tasked with the road-building effort and an Afghanistan Area Office was established at Kabul. To directly supervise the construction, the district activated the Kandahar Resident Office in Jan. 1961.

The Corps' work on the Afghani highway system began with oversight of the construction of a 96-mile spur from Kandahar southeast to the border with Pakistan at Spin Buldak. In Dec., Henry Byroade, the U.S. Ambassador in Kabul and himself a former Army Engineer officer, formally transferred this road to the government of Afghanistan. The project ultimately cost \$3.86 million.

## District celebrates women's equality

Addressing a large group of District employees, Judith McCombs, a disabled retired Vietnam veteran was this year's speaker at New York District's Women's



(l-r) Judith McCombs, guest speaker; Vikki Gross of EEO; and Lt. Col. Douglas Sarver, Deputy Commander.

Equality Day program. "This year's theme is on the celebration of the anniversary of women winning the right to vote," said Vikki Gross of EEO who arranged the program. McCombs works for the Veteran's Service Organization where she lobbies on Capitol Hill on behalf of military veterans.

## Gymnasium demolished at fort



Photo: Shewen Bian

A bulldozer plows through a brick wall of building 113 at Fort Hamilton. "The old gym was demolished in December leaving part of the building intact," said Matthew Walsh, construction manager. Rich Mandra is the project manager for the work.

## Security and Safety

All personnel who are scheduled to travel overseas on official business are reminded of the requirement of obtaining a country clearance, health briefing, and updated anti-terrorist briefing. Contact the Security Office immediately upon being notified that you may be traveling out of the continental United States.

Static electricity-related fires have occurred at retail gasoline outlets. The most effective means by which you can avoid static electricity problems at the gas pump is to stay outside the vehicle while refueling. If you feel the need to get back into your car during refueling you should discharge any static buildup upon exiting the car before going back to the pump nozzle by touching a metal part of the car, such as the door, or some other metal surface, with your bare hand.



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