

# The New York District Times

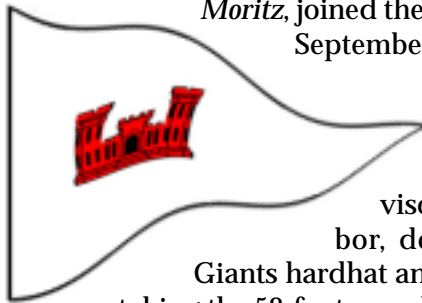


Nov. / Dec. 2003 Vol. 28, No. 6

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

## Moritz joins District Fleet of Corps vessels

New York District's newest survey vessel, the *Moritz*, joined the Caven Point fleet in September.



Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer and Supervisor of New York Harbor, donned a New York Giants hardhat and wasted no time in taking the 58-foot vessel for a test in the harbor. With O'Dowd atop the bridge, the *Moritz* whizzed past the Statue of Liberty as video footage was shot from the sister vessel *Dobrin* which was also underway.

*Moritz's* first skipper is Walter Grauling. The *Moritz* has a beam of 18.5 feet and displaces 30 tons and can sustain speeds of 30 knots.

The fleet of District vessels is homeported at the Caven Point facility in New Jersey. Alan Dorfman is the chief, Physical Support Branch and responsible for the Corps' vessel activity. "The *Moritz* is a state-of-the-art vessel designed to conduct hydrographic surveys in connection with operation, maintenance and new construction in and around New York Harbor," said Dorfman, who is very enthusiastic about the *Moritz's* arrival.

The vessel was named for Kurt L. Moritz, a former mate with the District's drift collection vessel *Gorham* who retired in 1977 after 27 years, and who died in 1998. Robert Moritz, a supply technician with the Corps at the Caven Point office, is the son of Kurt L. Moritz.



Photo: Vince Elias

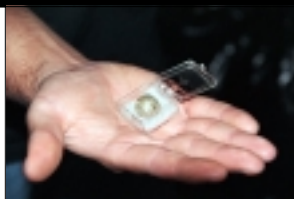
(Above) Walter Grauling is the *Moritz's* first skipper.

(Right) Col. John B. O'Dowd, Supervisor of the N.Y. Harbor on the weather deck of the *Moritz* as she passes the Statue of Liberty.



Photo: Peter Shugert

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## New York District Times

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

November/December 2003

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US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New York District

# Colonel's Corner

## *Best wishes for the holidays*

As we prepare to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, it's an ideal time to reflect on some of the great things we have done this year.

New York District continues to support the Global War on Terrorism. Fourteen of our people have joined 2,000 Corps of Engineers employees deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Turkey to provide essential support for our troops and oversee infrastructure repairs for the local people. Nine have returned home, and five more are preparing to deploy. Here at home, we continue homeland security efforts.

As our nation's military changes to meet new threats, New York District maintains building programs to create and upgrade needed facilities for our current and future warfighters. The Soldier Support Center at Fort Drum is complete, and the Battle Simulation Center for the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division is almost finished. At the U.S. Military Academy, soldiers and their families are occupying 50 units of renovated housing and more units are nearing completion. The cadets are using Kimsey Athletic Center, and construction is ongoing at the Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center. Training, maintenance and communications facilities to support the C-17 program are under construction at McGuire Air Force Base.

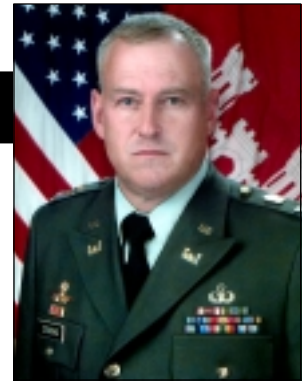
The highlight of the District's Civil Works Program is the deepening of New York Harbor. More than \$200 million supported that work this year, work that is vital to the economy of not only our region but of the entire nation. Other work supports prevention and control of flooding that, unchecked, could wreak havoc on our friends and neighbors. In fact seven District employees deployed following Hurricane Isabel to provide essential housing, debris and coordination support for our southern neighbors devastated by that storm.

Be proud of what you have accomplished this year – I certainly am. I encourage you to relax and enjoy the holiday season, and make the most of time with family and friends. Please remember that there are more than 200,000 military and civilian personnel who will not be spending their holidays at home this year. And when you return to your duties in the new year, be ready to work. We are a nation at war, and it's not a war that will end soon. The war started here, and we're a part of it.

***Essayons!***

*Colonel John B. O'Dowd*

*District Engineer*



Col. John B. O'Dowd  
District Engineer

# District shines in community relations spotlight



## District Engineer takes his culinary skills to the airwaves

Col. (and Chef) John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer, helped Chef Holly Cleeg on 'Fox and Friends' assemble some tasty dishes on a cooking show in November.



Photos: Peter Shugert

## District joins community for National Estuaries Day



A National Estuaries Day event drew over 150 people in Elizabeth, N.J. in September. The event was co-hosted by Future City, Inc. and the City of Elizabeth.

Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer and staff members discussed New York District's role in navigation and environmental restoration in the New York and New Jersey Harbor estuary.

Opening remarks were provided by representatives from the office of the mayor along with Congressmen Robert Menendez (NJ-13CD) and Donald M. Payne (NJ-10CD).

## Corps and Gowanus residents celebrate annual Brooklyn event

Lt. Col. Kurt Hoffman, Deputy commander addresses a large crowd at the Gowanus community celebration in Brooklyn, N.Y. New York District is involved in the Gowanus Canal project and District volunteers routinely participate in clean up activities in the neighborhood.



## Environmentalists examine the ecosystem and hold workshop

A large group of Corps experts comprised of environmentalists and interns from various sections of New York District participated in a coastal ecosystem workshop in October. The group traveled to a wetlands area in New Jersey to discuss ecosystem restoration and to photograph the area.

# Archaeologists participate in historic excavation

By Joanne Castagna, PPMD

Photos by Vince Elias

In September 2003, New York District employee Victoria Gross quietly entered a large, cool room in the historic Hamilton U.S. Customs House and Museum in Lower Manhattan as if she were entering a church. The room was filled wall-to-wall with large crates. She gently rested her palm to her chest and gazed at them, knowing they are filled with the human remains from New York City's 18th century African Burial Ground.

About the same time, Angela Grimes, a St. Louis District employee, unwound from her day by watching the local news. She was awed by the broadcaster's report regarding a grand ceremony for reburying those remains.

Both women were witnesses to one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

"As an American of African ancestry, it was a momentous occasion to be where the remains and artifacts are stored and to observe them being meticulously handled and examined by archaeologists from New York District, St. Louis District, and Howard University," said Gross, the African American Special Emphasis Program Manager of New York District. "It was insightful and gave me a sense of serenity."

"I knew about the burial ground, but until I saw the news report, I didn't know that my organization was leading this effort, ensuring the success of documenting the remains," said Grimes, of St. Louis District's Information Management Office.

New York and St. Louis districts were key players on the African Burial Ground Project, one of the General Services Administration's (GSA) priority projects.

In 1991, GSA's Northeast & Caribbean Region headquarters in New York City began excavating for a new federal government building in Lower Manhattan, at the intersection of Broadway and Duane Street.

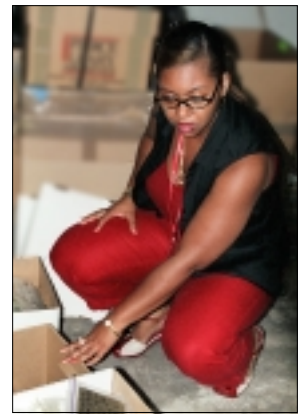
The excavation unearthed an 18th century African burial ground.

GSA hired archaeologists to investigate the find. They exhumed more than 400 adult and child skeletal remains in partially decayed wooded coffins,



(above) Nancy Brighton discusses the project with fellow archaeologist colleagues.

(right) Victoria Gross of EEO observes the artifacts.



plus scores of artifacts including coins, shells, and beads. The remains were found wearing shrouds fastened with brass straight pins and jewelry. The coffins were closely stacked in layers, going down as deep as 23 feet below street level.

The presence of an African burial ground in Lower Manhattan was known from historic maps. It was believed to encompass five to six acres (about five present-day city blocks) and to hold up to 20,000 burials. However, historic city documents and GSA's Environmental Impact Statement, conducted before the excavation, indicated that remnants of the burial ground at the site were unlikely because construction during the 1800s would have removed what remained of it.

Tests conducted by the archaeologists revealed that portions of the burial ground were actually deeper than expected, and apparently were unaffected by 19th century development.

Excavation of the new federal government building was halted and about 10,000 square feet of the burial ground was fenced off, grassed over, and protected. Building construction eventually resumed, and human remains moved during the excavation were carefully cataloged and stored for reburial.

*(continued on next page)*

*Historic Excavation (Cont'd. from page 4)*

290 Broadway was completed in 1994, leaving the remainder of the burial ground untouched. The burial ground is on the east side of 290 Broadway, and is bounded by Duane and Elk Streets. Ten thousand burials are believed to be 30 feet below the ground surface.



**New York District archaeologist Lynn Rakos meticulously catalogues the artifacts.**

In 1993, the burial ground was declared a National Historic Landmark and GSA made plans to preserve the burial ground. The agency funded research to examine the findings to gain insight into the lives of 18th century enslaved African Americans, and made plans to develop a memorial and public education center

beside the burial ground with the assistance of the National Park Service, and hold a reburial ceremony.

In 1993, GSA asked Howard University, Washington, D.C., to conduct scientific analysis of the human remains and artifacts before they could be reburied. GSA requested that the university create three reports, documenting the human remains' skeletal biology, history, and archeology.

The university took the human remains to Howard University's Cobb Laboratory for examination, and also established a lab in the World Trade Center's Building 6 to house and examine the artifacts.

The artifacts were still being stored in Building 6 when the WTC was destroyed on Sept. 11, 2001. Amazingly, many of the shelves holding the artifacts remained standing, and most of the artifacts were recovered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

After Sept. 11, GSA searched for a suitable curation facility. Because of his exceptional reputation, the agency called on Dr. Michael Trimble, anthropologist and director of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and

Management of Archaeological Collections in St. Louis District. The center is the largest single organization in the Department of Defense dedicated to addressing the curation of archeological collections on a national scale.

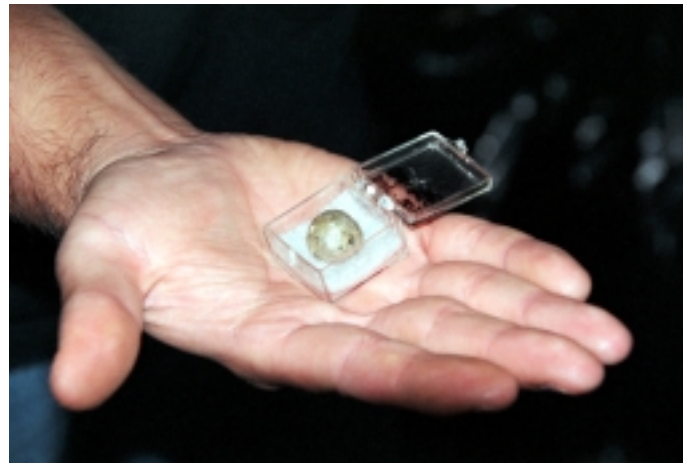
"We work with other Corps districts and agencies on the preservation, storage, and management of archeological and historical materials and associated documentation," said Trimble. "Our success is based on the relationships we have with other districts and agencies."

Trimble has worked with GSA on other archaeological projects. "Many are unaware that anthropology and archaeology are sensitive issues," he said. "My department has worked numerous projects, and it was an honor to be called on to assist with this one."

Trimble worked with Howard University and GSA to set up an archaeological lab at the Hamilton U.S. Customs House and Museum in Lower Manhattan. GSA also asked the Corps to be technical advisers on the project. Employing USACE's principles of virtual teaming, Trimble called on the New York District for a set of local eyes and ears.

"For this to work efficiently, I needed someone in the area that knew the project," said Trimble. It would call for numerous weekly and monthly meetings to ensure his plans were executed, and the cost in travel and time would not be feasible for the Corps or GSA. "I was aware that Nancy Brighton, lead archaeologist with New York District, had an intimate knowledge of New York archaeological sites. Nancy's efforts were exceptional. She definitely became my right hand during this project."

*(continued on next page)*



**Archaeologist Christopher Ricciardi holds a musket ball which was discovered in one of the graves.**

### Historic Excavation (cont'd from page 5)

Brighton was Trimble's principal assistant and local liaison. The two, along with many other personnel, worked as a virtual team for the last two years to ensure the project's success.

"I acted as a technical project manager and provided local expertise and representation," said Brighton. "I oversaw the work conducted at the lab at the Customs House, and made sure all project elements were completed. This involved coordinating the African Burial Ground team meetings that included archaeologists from New Jersey and New York, GSA personnel in Lower Manhattan, various regulatory agencies, members of the African American community, and other project stakeholders."

This summer, Trimble asked Brighton to go to Howard University with the St. Louis District team to supervise inventory of the human remains.

"I supervised the Howard University advanced osteology students and the St. Louis osteologists as they confirmed that all of the remains removed from the burial ground were returned for reburial," said Brighton. "This process also confirmed that the data had been recorded by the Howard University scientists to allow them to prepare the skeletal biology, history, and archeology reports. These reports had to be technically proficient and complete because the human remains and artifacts were going to be reburied. This data needed to be above reproach because it will be the only information available to analyze in the future.

"The osteology students previously analyzed the remains to gather information on the life of these first-generation African Americans," said Brighton. "The students tried to find out the health problems, diseases, and working conditions of these people who were enslaved. Disease, malnutrition, and work-related stress are evidenced in the bones."

During the summer, the Bronx Council for the Arts, working with the Corps and Howard University, matched the human remains with coffins specially manufactured in Ghana, Africa, for this project. Each side of the coffin was intricately carved with traditional West African symbols and scenes. BCA wrapped each individual in linen before placing him or her in a coffin.

Before reburial could take place, some of the artifacts were photographed and replicated by artisans and conservators at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, in cooperation with the National Park Service, for the education center GSA will establish beside the burial ground memorial.

Archaeologists from New York District prepared the artifacts found with each individual for placement in the appropriate coffin. The artifacts were carefully wrapped in tissue paper, which BCA then wrapped in linen and placed within each coffin. Also placed with the bodies were "letters from the ancestors" written by members of the African American community.

The reburial ceremony was a three-day event that commenced at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and culminated in New York City. The "Rites of Ancestral Return" began Sept. 30 at Howard University.

Four ceremonial coffins carrying the remains of an adult male, an adult female, and two children were transported to several cities on their journey back to New York City. Ceremonies took place at every stop including Baltimore; Wilmington, Del.; Philadelphia, and Newark, N.J.

At Newark the coffins were transported to Jersey City where they were placed on a boat. On Oct. 3, the boat carried them up the New York Harbor toward Lower Manhattan and Wall Street where the slaves originally entered New York City in the 17th and 18th centuries.

From Wall Street, ceremonial coffins were transported by horse-drawn carriages to the burial ground. They were placed inside seven large African mahogany burial crypts manufactured in Ghana. The remains from the African Burial Ground were reburied Oct. 4.

Trimble reflects back on the project. "This is a great example of people in the Corps trusting one another and one another's capabilities."

"Knowing the remains are being re-buried in their rightful place truly pleased my soul," said Gross. "This is truly government at its best." Grimes said.



Lead archaeologists Nancy Brighton and Kirsten Davis carefully catalogue artifacts at the museum in Lower Manhattan.



## New Yorker volunteers for overseas duty

Fernando Bautista, 7-year veteran with New York District returned from a four month duty assignment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Working as an architect deployed with a Forward Engineer Support Team, Bautista, now of CENAU, was involved in master planning for airfields, assessing buildings for safety and usefulness, and generating floor plans of existing buildings.

It is not just the contribution of his team to the war effort that gives Bautista a reason to feel pride. It is the sense that he has in his way helped strike back for the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, particularly on the World Trade Center.

"I'm a New Yorker, and I feel great about it," the 20-year resident of the Big Apple said.

A building designer for seven years with New York District, Bautista was one of a group of architects and engineers working feverishly on final deadline for a complicated facility design on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We were working around the clock in the architectural section office on the end fiscal year that



**Fernando Bautista** spent many years with New York District working in Engineering.

was coming to a close," said Bautista. He heard a big bang and felt the building shake. "I could see the upper floors of the North Tower, and the gaping hole between the 80<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> floors."

Bautista would not learn until days later that one of the fire trucks carried the fiancé of a niece to what would be his last emergency response. Christopher Santora would perish as a hero with the first fire fighters to enter the North skyscraper.

Bautista became restless, and after a year took a job with the Corps in Wiesbaden, Germany. He volunteered in January 2003 and joined a Forward Engineer Support Team. He and the team deployed to Kuwait at Doha in March, just as combat began.

"I really experienced being a part of the greatest Army in the world," said Bautista. "We were supporting our troops. And now I also feel I accomplished something personal for the Army. It has been one of the greatest things I have done in my professional life," Bautista said. "I am an American, I am a New Yorker. I had to do something."

(Source: Grant Sadler, CENAU-PA)

## Veterans lock horns with interns on the gridiron

New York District's Veteran football team defeated the Intern team three straight times this season by scores of 35-14; 30-7; and 28-14 respectively.

The scrimmages were held at Fort Hamilton's Doubleday Field. Two games of touch and one flag game were played.

Veterans Jason Shea and Frank Verga made spectacular plays on defense and quarterback John Downing hit Verga on offense as a wide out for big scores in the end zone.

Cliff Jones made a big play on defense and blocked a pass thwarting the Interns from getting big yardage. Later in the first game, the sputtering Intern team was granted some veteran leadership, and finally got the ball into the end zone on a quick pass from Veteran QB Ed Wrocenski, who opted to play on the Intern team and help them get some points on the board.



Five members of the Intern team. (l-r) Anthony Schiano, Rafal Turek, John Schinn, Ken Peterson and Mike Hogg. (Photos: Matt Houston)



Veterans. (l-r) Vince Elias, Frank Verga, Cliff Jones, Lenny Houston, John Downing, Freddy Bilboa; (kneeling) Jason Shea, and Ed Wrocenski. Matt Houston (not shown).

# Employees lauded for superior performance

In October, over 25 New York District employees of the Staten Island landfill / World Trade Center debris recovery team were recognized by Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer for their outstanding support to a crucial Corps operation that was established to manage debris removal from Manhattan to Staten Island for inspection.

From 2001 to 2002, the Corps managed debris removal operations around the clock at the 160-acre site of the Staten Island landfill. Thousands of tons of debris from three collapsed skyscrapers and adjacent damaged structures was removed from the World Trade Center site.

Approximately 1.62 million tons of debris and steel were processed during the operation. The operation lasted almost 10 months. At the height of the operation some 7,000 tons of material were processed each day, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## Award Recipients



### Meritorious Civilian Service Award

David Leach, CO



### Superior Civilian Service Award

Thomas Harnedy, CO  
Paula Higgins, SA



### Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Kingsley Findlay, CO  
Mark Kucera, CO  
James Parks, CO  
Eugene Urbanik, CO



### Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

George Van Cook, CO  
Michael Johnson, CO  
Neal Kolb, CO  
Anthony Mustillo, CO  
Patrick Nejang, CO  
Abraham Portalatin, SA  
Neil Ravensbergen, CO  
Thomas Roche, CO  
Viet Tran, CO

### Certificate of Appreciation

Betzaida Andujar, RM  
Jon Chew, EN  
Richard Cicchetti, CO  
Diane Deptula, HR  
Harry Donath, EN  
Emily Eng, EN  
Robert Goldfarb, LM  
Andrew Henning, LM  
Ellen Higgins, OP  
Ken Johnson, CO  
Joe Kuleszynski, IR  
Will Kulick, IR  
Chi Lau, EN  
Monique Wiggins, RM



## Civil Works

### Project to stabilize Hudson River banks

By John R. Schinn, Planning Division

In September, New York District began construction on the Hudson River Poughkeepsie project that will stabilize the eroding east bank of the Hudson River in the town of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The project, authorized under Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946, will prevent areas of the shoreline from receding as much as 1.5 feet per year in certain parts of the river.

The plan consists of installing steel sheet piling and creating new gabion structures and sections of riprap, while maintaining the existing ones. A gabion structure is a wall of rocks held together by a cage or screen of metal. These structures will help preserve over 1,100 feet of shoreline along the Hudson River. The

main benefits to Poughkeepsie include the protection of two boathouses and a local pumping station, which provides the city with drinking water. Other benefits include the creation of secure anchorages for floating docks and the prevention of silt build-up in the adjacent deep-water habitat of short-nosed sturgeons. Careful attention has been given by the Corps' environmental scientists to protect these sturgeons that spawn in late April in the lower Hudson.

The project delivery team members are Karl Ahlen, project manager; Don Braun, Stu Chase, Marty Goff, Ken Johnson, John Killeen, David Rackmales and Kim Rightler.



# District promotes cultural awareness

New York District's cultural cuisine connoisseurs had the opportunity to tantalize their palates during Cultural Diversity Day Oct. 31.

Arranged by EEO, the cafeteria seating area in the Federal building was turned into a smorgasbord buffet. The food was prepared by District volunteers who shared samplings of their favorite recipes with their Corps colleagues.

Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer opened the festivities and welcomed guests before noshing on a variety of delicacies.

"Cultural Diversity Day began four years ago to commemorate the diverse cultures which make up our great country," said Vikki Gross, of EEO. "New York District is as diverse as New York City, and there is no better way than to share individual cultures with a food sampling of ethnic recipes."

Employees volunteered their time to also work on the serving line which had an attractive array of piping hot entrees, side dishes and baked desserts.

A raffle was also held. Winners received beverage mugs and ball caps containing the Corps logo that were handed out to winners by Elain Shipman of RM.

"As evidenced by the big turnout, several employees participated this year, which contributed to the event being a huge success," said Gross.



Above (l-r) Franklin Rodriguez, Lois Borroum, Sandra Gaffney and Cliff Jones dish out the delicacies along the serving line.



(left) Wedad Youssef piles her plate with continental cuisine samples.



(left) Vikki Gross serves some savory samples to Paul Tumminello as he savors the smell of the continental cuisine.

(right) Marty Goff hands out fresh-baked dessert samples.



Photos: Vince Elias

## District awards contract for major construction project

By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD

New York District awarded its largest 8(a) contract in September to a joint venture firm to design and construct a state-of-the-art, high energy propellant formulation facility in Picatinny, N.J. The \$16.5 million 8(a) contract was awarded to Hirani/MES, JV, of Brooklyn, N.Y. to perform the work.

The facility will be part of the Research, Development and Engineering Command at the 6,500-acre Picatinny site. The facility will consist of 18 buildings within the complex to carry out all stages of propellant development for Army armament. Presently, there are 34 buildings where this work is performed. According to Jeffrey Frye, project manager, the new facility is expected to be completed by 2006, and will modernize and improve efficiency.

“What makes this 8(a) contract award unique is the size of the contract value going to one firm. Usually an 8(a) contract is awarded at \$2 million to \$5 million. This one is \$16.5 million,” said Frye. “This demonstrated that we have competent 8(a) firms that can compete for this type of contract as well as a contract of a higher dollar value.”

An 8(a) contract is awarded to a small business that has been certified by the Small Business Administration.

“This type of contract can be used for any number of services. The Department of Defense must make a certain percentage of contract awards to small businesses each fiscal year,” said Kathleen Hirschy, the Corps’ New York District Deputy for Small Business.

Normally two separate contractors perform the design and construction. The firm will accomplish both. Building such a facility requires general knowledge of propellant formulation. This being the case, the project delivery team consists of experts from New York, Norfolk and Omaha Districts; Picatinny’s Public Works and Garrison commands to perform research to develop project requirements. “To create the request for proposal, the project delivery team needed to do their homework in order to be able to write the scope of work,” said Frye.

“This is not a standard design. We needed to understand inside and out what the functions of the facilities entailed, including

safety design requirements to develop appropriate specifications to clarify the scope of work. This required the team to conduct a great deal of research and coordination.”

Early in the Solicitation process, people from the district’s small business office and contracting division coordinated with the Small Business Administration and conducted a market survey to various 8(a) firms. “The results of this survey identified the potential list of firms that would submit proposals, giving the project delivery team confidence that there would be adequate competition, and that an 8(a) contract procurement would be successful. After careful consideration of the firms who proposed, Hirani/MES, JV had the lowest cost of the technically acceptable proposals,” said Hirschy.

According to Frye, acquiring a contractor under an 8(a) design-build contract can be beneficial to the District in many ways.

“Having a single contractor performing the design and construction provides the Government better accountability for resolving design issues during construction as well as aid in increasing project efficiency since the project would be designed and constructed by the same contractor,” said Frye. “When you have two separate contractors performing the design and construction it can take longer to complete a project as opposed to having a single contractor.” He noted that 8(a) contract awards also help fulfill small business utilization goals of the Department of Defense that encourages the use of these contracts, making opportunities available to small business firms.”



Project delivery team (l-r) Salvatore Chiommino (CO), Deirdre Payne (OC), David Chew (EN), Richard Field, (Picatinny), John Alaskewicz (EN), Natasha Hayes (EN), Tom Sessa (EN), Claudio Sang (EN), Stan Bloom (EN), Thelma Manning (Picatinny), Col. John B. O’Dowd (DE), Kathleen Hirschy (SBA), Prospero Uybarreta (SBA), Hirani Engineering Rep., George Makhoul (MES Contracting), Michael Paduano, (Picatinny), Perry Pang (EN), Johnny Martinez (CO), John Chew (EN) and Vinod Kapoor (Picatinny DPW). (Not pictured) Jeffrey Frye, project manager, John Downing (PPMD); Edward Lew (CO), Maj. David Freedman (CT), and Ella Snell (CT).

(Photo: Vince Elias)

# The red coats (and blue coats) are coming!

By Christopher Ricciardi

Environmental Branch, Planning Division

It's been over 225 years since more than 20,000 British forces landed during the American Revolution at what would eventually become Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y.

One may argue that the United States of America began in Brooklyn on a fateful August day in 1776 and not in Philadelphia, Pa., in July of that year. Not many know this chapter of the Revolutionary War. One of the most important battles of the American Revolution was fought at a location between Prospect Park and Third Avenue in Brooklyn.

The historic period of the City of New York and the battles that occurred in the five boroughs during the war are rarely discussed in schools and are left out of some history books.

How many of us realize that the Battle of Brooklyn (or the Battle of Long Island, for the purists out there) was in reality the first battle fought as the United States of America? It was in Brooklyn that the 13 colonies went one step beyond the ideal that 20-plus men signed in Philadelphia six weeks prior.

With so little written, known and understood about this period of American and New York City history, local groups have banded together to clarify history. Brooklyn Heritage, Inc., a not-for-profit organization has joined with the Brooklyn College Archaeological Research Center (part of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at Brooklyn College) to create a Revolutionary War Heritage Tourism Trail. This project will create, in part, a tourism map that identifies the 100-plus Revolutionary War sites in Brooklyn alone. Twenty of those sites will have signs installed describing the events that occurred there. An internet web site will be developed so that people can take a virtual tour of the area and to find out more information and locate resources on the Revolutionary period of New York.

The project has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from Heritage New York, a program run through the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. As part of this grant, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the City University of New York's Research Foundation have pledged in-kind contributions to ensure that the project is a success.

It's been over 225 years since more than 20,000 British forces landed during the American Revolution at what would eventually become Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Christopher Ricciardi, project archaeologist in the Environmental Section of the Planning Division, is the president of Brooklyn Heritage, Inc., and the former assistant director of the Brooklyn College Archaeological Research Center. He, along with others, is spearheading this project to ensure that this vital period of American history is not forgotten.



Photos: Vince Elias

## Corps experts make a difference at home and overseas

Another group of New York District volunteers left for duty overseas in the fall. New York District has many people, several whom are volunteers that have joined teams comprised of experts from several Corps districts and divisions.

New York District experts are involved in various missions to assess projects. Working with Iraq's work

force became necessary in restoring the country. Throughout 2003, the Corps teams performed assessments of infrastructure and supported the restoration of Iraq.

Planners anticipated severe damage to the infrastructure systems and buildings as a result of war, looting, and decades of neglect

### Serving the nation



During this holiday season, many Corps of Engineers experts are deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq to provide essential oversight of infrastructure repairs for the local people. Corps experts are serving in harm's way and willingly are making a sacrifice so that others might have a future of safety and freedom.

### Restoration and improvements

Since May 1, 2003, the following accomplishments have occurred in Iraq:

The first battalion of the new Iraqi Army has graduated and is on active duty.

Over 60,000 Iraqis now provide security to their fellow citizens.

Nearly all of Iraq's 400 courts are functioning.

The Iraqi judiciary is fully independent.

In Oct. 6 power generation hit 4,518 megawatts-exceeding the prewar average.

All 22 universities and 43 technical institutes and colleges are open, as are nearly all primary and secondary schools.

As of October, Coalition forces had rehabbed over 1,500 schools - 500 more than their target.

Teachers earn from 12 times to 25 times their former salaries.

All 240 hospitals and more than 1200 clinics are open.

Doctors' salaries have increased since under the former Iraqi dictator.

Pharmaceutical distribution has gone from essentially nothing to 700 tons in May to a current total of 12,000 tons.

The Coalition has helped administer over 22 million vaccination doses to Iraq's children.

A Coalition program has cleared over 14,000 kilometers of Iraq's 27,000 kilometers of weed-choked canals. They now irrigate tens of thousands of farms. This project has created jobs for more than 100,000 Iraqi men and women.

We have restored over three-quarters of prewar telephone services and over two-thirds of the potable water production.

There are 4,900 full-service telephone connections. We expect 50,000 by January 1st.

The wheels of commerce are turning. From bicycles to satellite dishes to cars and trucks, businesses are coming to life in all major cities and towns.

Ninety-five percent of all prewar bank customers have service and first-time customers are opening accounts daily.

Iraqi banks are making loans to finance businesses. The central bank is fully independent.

Iraq has one of the world's most growth-oriented investment and banking laws.

Iraq has a single, unified currency for the first time in 15 years.

(Source: Mary McArthur, USACE)

# Iraq housing ministry receives funding

By Spec. Michelle Richardson

In September 2003 the Iraq Ministry of Housing and Construction received \$14.6 million from the Coalition Provisional Authority to continue with the reconstruction effort. The money is a progress payment on the \$100 million Construction Initiative set up by Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, III to jump start the Ministry of Housing and Construction's efforts to rebuild Iraq.

"The money is not going to international contractors; it is going to the Iraqi contractors and will be put directly into the local economy," said Mike O'Sullivan, an Army Corps of Engineers program manager to the Ministry of Housing and Construction. He explained that this deposit would have an overall positive ripple effect on the Iraqi economy. "This \$14.6 million will go to hiring and paying the salaries of local Iraqi engineers and tradesmen. These contractors will use this money to buy construction materials and furnishings from local Iraqis shops."

The Ministry of Housing and Construction and O'Sullivan were very happy to have this money safely deposited within the Iraq financial system as it was transported incognito in three foot lockers in the back



Mike O'Sullivan, Corps of Engineers program manager to the Ministry of Housing and Construction holds a stack of currency. O'Sullivan was very happy to have this money safely deposited within the Iraqi financial system.

of an SUV. The transfer of the progress payment had to occur this way as the Iraq financial system currently will not accept checks or wire transfers.

This deposit represents another step in the right direction for the reconstruction of Iraq. With this progress payment, more money is available to be distributed to Iraqi contractors for their work, and new construction projects can begin and current projects can continue.

## Public affairs specialist gets the word out



Steven Wright

Steven Wright, a public affairs specialist from Huntington District spent a five-month tour in Kuwait as part of the Corps' Team RIO that helped Iraqi families obtain the same dreams and aspirations of a safe and stable future and jobs and education for their children.

From March to August 2003, Wright lived like a soldier in open bay barracks, ate Meals, Ready-to-Eat rations, and worked in cramped quarters in Camp Doha, Kuwait. Wright performed public affairs duties for the Corps' Operation Restore Iraqi Oil (RIO) that included informing the media about the work being performed by the Corps.

"We are doing great work in Iraq. Seldom will you be able to see such a direct positive result from the work done by yourself and your organization," added Wright. "It is an outstanding example of the Corps' civil works capabilities being used to meet our national policy requirements. The U.S. needs a Corps of Engineers and we can go anywhere and accomplish great work."

(By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD)



## Vietri to join North Atlantic Division

Congratulations to Joseph Vietri of Planning Division who received a promotion to Chief, Planning Division at the Corps' North Atlantic Division.



# News makers

## Retirements

Sam Tosi, Chief, Planning and Policy Division, Civil Works Management Directorate of North Atlantic division will retire in January. Tosi was a long-time District employee who began his career in 1962 as a junior engineer in training.



**Sam Tosi**

Tosi supported New York District in many of his efforts. He was the first deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management at New York district as well as chief of Planning Division. Tosi was instrumental in the success of several major civil works projects, such as the Passaic River, Coney Island, Sea Bright, Green Brook, Port Jersey, Arthur Kill, Kill van Kull, Shinnecock Inlet, Fire Island to Montauk Point, Westhampton Beach, and New York Harbor.

"My plans for the future are to relax, spend time with my family and ... and then see what happens," said Tosi.

## District Engineer to receive public service award

Col. O'Dowd, District Engineer was selected by the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corp. to receive its Public Service Award. O'Dowd was selected due his many years of dedicated service to the Corps and to the Gowanus Community. O'Dowd will receive the award in April.

## Engagement announcement



Sean Stumpf, a geographer in Planning Division, popped the question to bride-to-be Monica Pantale. Plans are to tie the knot in 2004.



## Richard Wright

Richard Wright retired in October after being the chief of the Engineering Design Branch for almost a decade.

Prior to that, he was the chief of Engineering Division's Civil Projects Management Branch.

## Stork Club



### It's a boy!

Robin Tulsiram of PPMD is the proud father of Christian Jacob Tulsiram, born Dec. 8, 2003.

Vital Stats: 6 lbs. and 10 oz., 19 3/4 inches.



## Get well soon

The executive staff and special assistants showed some compassion by providing a gift basket for Col. O'Dowd. O'Dowd made a speedy recovery from foot surgery in December.



## District headlines

### Dredging the Port of New York and New Jersey



(Photo: Peter Shugert)

Four dredges near the Bayonne Bridge, during dredging operations in the Kill van Kull.

New York District is responsible for overseeing the Corps's number one project, dredging the Kill van Kull, a major waterway crucial to the maritime industry. At one time there were 80 pieces of dredging-related equipment in the harbor, including dredges, drill boats, survey boats, tugs and scows.

In the nation's third largest container port, the existing 40-foot channel does not permit access by many of today's modern-day container ships. The port indirectly and directly supports over 225,000 jobs in the New York and New Jersey area and provides consumer goods ranging from cocoa and orange juice to automobiles.

### District renders emergency assistance in the South

Hurricane Isabel unleashed her wrath onto the shorelines of the states of Virginia and North Carolina in September.

It was reported that certain areas had over 50 homes that were destroyed, and 2,000 that were severely damaged by the storm.

New York District personnel and members of other Corps districts were part of a Federal team who were brought together under FEMA. Over 300 Corps personnel were involved in Isabel recovery operations.

A Corps Temporary Housing Project Response team performed site inspections of applicants approved by FEMA for temporary trailers. The Corps team performed quality assurance inspections and processed over 190 travel trailer installations.

The teams conducted site inspections of personal property and located necessary connections for utilities.



Douglas Liete takes a measurement necessary to connect a utility line during an inspection of personal property.

### Study embarks upon new partnership



The Study Team. (l-r) Ellen Simon, Jeffrey Gross, Ronald Brattain, Tom Shea, Robert Hass, Col. John B. O'Dowd, Marty Goff and Bethany McClanahan.

Col. John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer, signed the FCSA for the Hudson-Raritan Estuary, Lower Passaic River Ecosystem Restoration study.

"This study embarks upon new cooperative partnerships between Federal and state agencies by combining efforts with the EPA to address the contamination, cleanup and restoration of urban rivers," said Ronald Brattain of Planning Division.

The Lower Passaic River study area has been identified as one of eight pilot studies under the Urban Rivers Restoration Initiative, and begins at Dundee Dam near Garfield, NJ to the river's confluence at Newark Bay.



## Health and safety tips

- Never drink and drive.
- Drive defensively and be situationally aware.
- Refrain from shoveling snow if you have a medical condition.
- Wear proper shoes designed for the elements.
- An overloaded electrical wall socket is a fire hazard.
- Never leave lighted candles unattended.
- Watch for beverage spills on workplace floors.
- Keep a first aid kit near your work space.
- Always wear a hard hat at a construction job site.
- Never lean on the safety lines while on a Corps vessel.

## Mary Stavina's Tidbits



### *Did you know?*

During the middle ages, the French coined the term “genie” to represent the Engineers. Over the years, “genie” evolved into the Old English word “enginotor” meaning one who operates the engines of war, such as siege towers, battering rams and alike. With the support of professional French military engineers, our young U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was created during America’s War for Independence.

Today, that French heritage is still seen within the Corps. Even the motto of the American Engineers, “ESSAYONS,” is French for “Let us try.”

### A Friendly Reminder from Your Security Office...

Do not process, store or transmit classified information on non-secure telecommunications systems. Official Department of Defense telecommunications systems — including telephones, fax machines, computer networks, and modems — are subject to monitoring for telecommunications security purposes at all times. Use of official DoD telecommunications systems constitutes consent to telecommunications security monitoring.



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