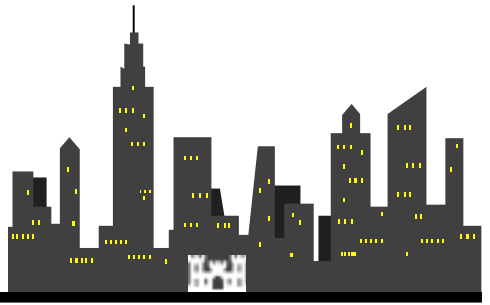


The New York District Times



Jan./Feb. 2006, Vol. 31, No.1

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

Corps assists EPA in waterfront cleanup

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D.

The Corps is assisting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which is leading a huge clean up project on the north shore of Long Island, N.Y.

For decades, a one-mile portion of property in Glen Cove was used by industry. Hazardous material was dumped on site prior to the establishment of strict environmental laws. The area is now the Li Tungsten Superfund site where the Corps and EPA are busy remediating the property for future waterfront development.

A smelting and refining company was one of three industries which operated manufacturing facilities on the site from the 1940s to the mid-1980s. One facility processed tungsten, a material used to harden steel. Tungsten ores were smelted to produce carbide powder, wire and welding rods. The heavy metals and radioactive ore residues contaminated the property.

Recently, the waterfront was the backdrop for a news conference that announced plans to revitalize 214 acres of the waterfront.

Mary Ann Holzkamp, was mayor of Glen Cove at the time, and enthusiastically announced that the last truckload of radioactive waste was being hauled away from the property, clearing the way for a new waterfront development.

Standing alongside her were members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental



Photo: Mark Pane, EPA

Remedial action construction work at the Li Tungsten Captain's Cove site.

Protection Agency, and New York state and local agencies which have a role in making the milestone a reality.

The development project will feature a link from the city's nearby shopping area to the waterfront. Thirty percent of the area will be comprised of parks, public squares, and botanical gardens. Plans are for walking paths, restaurants, art galleries, hotels, and shopping areas. Plans also include luxury condominiums, trolley cars, water taxis and a ferry service operating to and from New York City.

In the 1980s, the EPA investigated the property and discovered large amounts of hazardous material, such as laboratory chemicals and contaminated waste which was contained in hundreds of rusted drums

(Continued on page 3)

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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

Jan./Feb. 2006

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9-11-01

Lest we forget

Commander and District salute Corps volunteers

New York District salutes over 30 volunteers who were deployed during the past holiday season to the states along the Gulf of Mexico and overseas in support of the war on terror.

In a holiday message to all of New York District, Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., Commander, New York District wrote the following:

"I would like to dedicate this message to a special group of people ... and ask that all of you remember our thirty-three district colleagues who will not be spending the holidays with their families. They have all volunteered to be away from their home bases helping others in great need ... and, in four cases, are also risking their lives and limbs serving their country in war zones and continuing the proud traditions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Please join me in saluting them and acknowledging their sacrifices."

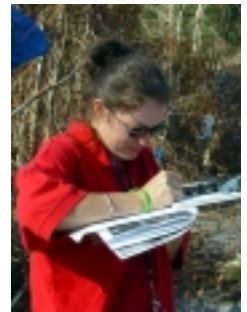
Overseas

Sterret Daniels CO-NE Greenland
Richard Lavoie CO-WD Afghanistan
William Matias OP-SS Afghanistan
Milton Ricks EN-MC Afghanistan
Derek Walker EN-MM Iraq



Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas

David Brouwer PP Mission Manager
Don Braun CO-ME Mission Specialist
Glenn Chinnery CO-CM QA Inspector Roofing
Andre Chauncey EN-H QA Inspector
Donald Cresitello PL-FC Mission Specialist
Juan Escajadillo EN-H QA Inspector
Elizabeth Finn OP-P Mission Specialist
David Gentile CO-CM QA Inspector Roofing
John Gerlach CO-WP Mission Specialist Housing-FL
Jerome Groome CO-NF QA Inspector Roofing
Randy Hintz OP-ST QA Supervisor
Robert Hoshman EN-H QA Inspector
Jennifer Irish EN-H QA Inspector
Michael Johnson CO-NE QA Inspector
Daniel Karlok OP-A QA Inspector Debris
Christina King EN-DC QA Inspector
John McNamara OP QA Inspector
William Petronis OP-A QA Supervisor
Abraham Portalatin SA Safety/Occupational Health Manager
Howard Ruben PL-ES NEPA Specialist
Raymond Schembri CO-WP QA Supervisor
Walter Scott OP QA Inspector
Elaine Shipman RM-B QA Inspector
Russell Smith OP-R QA Housing
Rafal Turek OP-ST QA Inspector Debris



(New waterfront development -- Continued from page 1)

and tanks stored above ground and underground. Asbestos, transformers, and gas cylinders containing compressed liquids and gases were found. There also was evidence that elemental mercury had spilled onto the property.

Also detected were low-level radiation and heavy metal contamination in the soil, evidence that the nearby 23-acre Captain's Cove property was used as a dumping area by local businesses and residents.

The site was remediated by an EPA contractor and the hazardous chemical and radioactive materials were removed.

In the spring of 2005, an interagency agreement with the Corps' New York District was in place to perform remediation at the Captain's Cove portion of the site. The work was supervised by the Corps' Kansas City District.

Conti Environmental Services began the remediation work in the spring of 2005. Approximately 87,500 tons of radioactive soils and 35,000 tons of metals and contaminated soil were removed.

"Our responsibility was to excavate the soil, separate the radioactive and metal-contaminated soil from the non-contaminated soil and transport the con-

Contractors supervise workers loading radioactive soil for off site removal and disposal.



taminated soil to appropriately licensed disposal facilities," said Richard Gajdek, project manager, New York District.

"Throughout the construction period the public has been protected from any potential health threats. The public is prohibited from entering the site that is fenced off and guarded. Also, we continually monitor the air quality and inspect and clean the trucks that enter and leave the property," he added. "This cleanup, along with the future cleanup of other areas of the site will clear the way for the new waterfront redevelopment."



A contractor watches as low-level radioactive soil is loaded for removal and disposal.

Construction division gathers at annual meeting

By Thomas Harnedy

Twenty-five resident engineers, team leaders and key personnel from New York District met Nov. 16 for the annual Construction Division Area/Resident Engineer Conference in Watertown, N.Y. The location for the conference was chosen by Rick Alvarez, chief, Construction Division as symbolic of the recently commenced \$2 billion Modularity and Transformation construction program at nearby Fort Drum, N.Y. scheduled to continue into 2014.

Conference participants were from three of New York District's area and project offices — Northern New York, Metro, and New Jersey.

The conference agenda included training and discussion in traditional construction contract administration areas such as cost administration of design-build projects, resolving claims and disputes, sharing contractual and physical lessons learned, and resource sharing among field offices.

Added to this year's agenda was professional development training in other generic areas such as effective writing and interview preparation.

Following administrative check-in procedures, the conference kicked off in the afternoon with Alvarez making the opening remarks.

In acknowledging the participants, Alvarez expressed, in addition to his personal gratitude, the well wishes of Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., New York District Engineer on a fabulous past year of military and civil construction program execution, superb management of income and placement. He also conveyed his appreciation to the many construction staff who volunteered for Corps missions overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism, as well as hurricane relief efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi.

He concluded his opening remarks with a short presentation entitled, "The Power of 27" which focused on keystone principles and imperatives to achieving customer satisfaction.

Paul Jalowski, resident engineer, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., and Jerry Valade, former resident engineer at Fort Monmouth, N.J. (now team leader for the \$83 million Aviation Facilities projects at Fort Drum), followed with lessons learned presentations and discussions on the recently completed 4-year, \$70 million C-17 aircraft beddown program at McGuire

Air Force Base, and the \$23 million U.S. Military Academy Prep School renovation project at Fort Monmouth.

Other highlights included a discussion led by Jerry Byrne, deputy chief, Construction Division at the time, on the costs experienced by construction personnel to administer design-build contracts versus design-bid-build contracts. Byrne highlighted the criticality of using the Project Management Business Process to forecast and procure additional income for upfront costs associated with administering the design portion of design-build projects.

Ed Sim, project manager, Fort Drum, along with Valade, provided an exhaustive overview on the modularity and transformation program at Fort Drum that will continue over the next few years. It is expected to be the cornerstone of the District's military program for the foreseeable future, due to the sheer volume of design and construction.

An icebreaker took place that evening attended by all participants.

Alvarez began the following day with a short discussion of ongoing personnel reorganization initiatives within Construction Division. Highlighted was the strength of the military and civil works programs, particularly at Fort Drum, and New York Harbor.

(continued on page 5)



Paul Jalowski, resident engineer, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., received the Hammer Award at the annual Construction Division Conference. The award is presented annually to acknowledge the accomplishments of key leaders in the Construction Division and their embracing three primary elements — teach, coach and assist.

Construction Division embrace primary elements *(cont'd. from page 4)*

Along the lines of thinking regionally, he advised construction leaders to be continually assessing their workloads, adjusting the work force, and communicating with regard to opportunities as staffing needs arise or diminish within their local areas of responsibility.

The second day of the conference was entirely devoted to professional development training and professional development units.

Stan Gembicki, chief, Engineering Division, Baltimore District, concluded the morning session with a series of lectures regarding effective job interview preparation and resume writing.

“These subjects are particularly valuable to construction personnel in seeking growth opportunities in addition to the obvious goal of construction managers fostering completion of a project within time and budget and resultantly working themselves out of a project,” said Gembicki.

The afternoon agenda continued with the inaugural presentation of Construction Division’s Hammer Award, with Jalowski being the recipient for 2005. The Hammer Award was conceived by Alvarez as a way to acknowledge the accomplishments of key leaders in the Construction Division and their embracing three primary elements — teach, coach and assist.

As the Corps strives to be a learning organization, Alvarez said that construction leaders should mentor their staff to increase their knowledge base,

productivity, and job satisfaction. “Effective mentoring will pay dividends to the employee and ultimately benefit the Corps’ customers with high-quality projects,” said Alvarez.

Continuing along the theme of professional development, Thomas Driscoll, national claims and dispute resolution practice leader for URS Corporation provided an informative seminar on claims avoidance and mitigation with an emphasis on impacts experienced during design-build delivery.

Driscoll illustrated many points with anecdotal real-life examples from his wealth of experience during his years involved with heavy construction and infrastructure rehabilitation in the New York metropolitan area.

That evening the group embarked on one of the area’s more notable scenic spots, Sacketts Harbor, for dinner and an evening of camaraderie.

Nov. 17 was the last day of the conference and ended with group caravan to Fort Drum and a tour of the ongoing \$82 million aviation facilities project.

Marty Tokos, project engineer, conducted an informative briefing on the project status followed by a walking tour of the extensive project site where all were able to view facilities under active construction.

Tom Harnedy is the chief, Contract Administration Section, Construction Division

MILCON project takes shape at Fort Drum

The Divarty Barracks and support facilities project at Fort Drum, N.Y. is a two-story, 35,635-square-foot facility. The building is designed to match the architectural theme of adjacent buildings constructed in 1987-1990. The unit includes quarters, community space, and support facilities including parking, walkways, and utilities.

The design includes living units with individual single rooms connected to common kitchen/bathroom spaces within each module. The common area between two wings of the L-shaped structure includes entry vestibules, lounge, and laundry spaces.



Photo: Mark McKenna

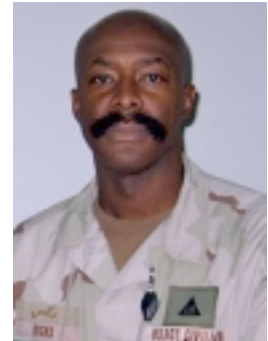
Awards, accolades and honors

Ricks receives medal from Afghanistan District Commander

Milton Ricks of New York District received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Col. Christopher J. Toomey, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan Engineer District.

Ricks was presented the award Nov. 15 in Afghanistan for his excellent performance while serving as resident engineer for a local hospital renovation and project engineer for the Afghan Army Garrison construction.

Ricks volunteered to serve in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom and was there from Aug. 22, 2004, to Nov. 18, 2005.



Milton Ricks

Caven Point Ops Boss honored with an admiral's salute



Alan Dorfman

In January, the Corps crews of the vessels Gelberman and Hocking, along with New York City Fire Department and Police Department boats gave Alan Dorfman a send-off with a water cannon farewell salute. Dorfman was honored with the nautical salute upon his retirement as the Operations Chief in Caven Point, N.J., where he had served for 20 years. Caven Point is the homeport of the New York fleet of vessels. Under Dorfman's leadership, the crews of the Corps vessels were instrumental in ferrying hundreds of stranded people from Manhattan following the terrorist attacks on Manhattan Sept. 11.



Farewell! Alan Dorfman waves as he is honored by the Corps fleet during a water canon salute.

Employee named NACE Member of the Year

In December 2005, Costas "Gus" Lymberis received the Member of the Year Award for 2005 from the Metropolitan New York section of the National Association of Corrosion Engineers. Lymberis was honored at an awards gala in which he was presented the William F. Gundaker plaque from the association. Lymberis is also the chairman of the Metropolitan Section.



**Costas 'Gus'
Lymberis**

Years of Service Awards

15 YEARS

Anthony Delvecchio
Joseph Olha
Deidre Payne

10 YEARS

Barbara Hebel
Jason Shea

5 YEARS

Yajaira Abreau
JoAnne Castagna
Daniel Desmet
Patricia Donohue
Tiffany Pittman
Carlos Villacres

Employees honored at Town Hall meeting

Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District presented medals to the below listed personnel. The ceremony was held Jan. 6 at a Town Hall meeting. Congratulations to all awardees.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CIVILIAN AWARD FOR HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

For service to the Corps and the Federal Emergency Management Agency following the terrorists attacks on the World Trade Center, Sept. 11, 2001.

Richard Bulvid
Mark Burlas
Jon Canby
Richard Cicchetti
Ronald Conetta
Joseph Daskalakis
Vanessa Davis
Lou Depaolis
Kingsley Findlay
Joseph Forcina
Michael Ganley
Robert Goldfarb
Khie Go

Thomas Harnedy
Michael Harris
Randall Hintz
Sue Hopkins
Armando Jimenez
Ken Johnson
Michael Johnson
Steve Knowles
Neal Kolb
Mark Kucera
Steve McDevitt
Jodi McDonald
Walter Micklow

Beth Nash
John O'Connor
Joe Olha
Neil Ravenbergens
Joseph Seebode
Tom Shea
Debra Smith
Peter Shugert
John Tavaloro
Gene Urbanik
Alvin Washington
Monique Wiggins
John Wilbur



The Department of the Army Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service is awarded for significant hands-on participation in an act or operation of a humanitarian nature directed toward an individual or groups of individuals. The award consists of a medal, lapel button, and citation certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL FOR CIVILIAN SERVICE

For service during Hurricane Ivan Alabama response and recovery operations in 2004.

Juan Esdajadillo
Sean O'Donnell
Perry Pang
Genaro Perez
Walter Scott
Kevin Smyth
Michael Vissichelli

The Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service is comparable to the Army Achievement Medal. The medal was proposed by The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel in March 1987 and approved by the Chief of Staff, Army, on 24 August 1987. It ranks directly below the Commander's Award for Civilian Service. This award consists of a bronze medal, lapel button and citation certificate. A service ribbon and miniature size medal are also available.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY COMMANDER'S AWARD FOR CIVILIAN SERVICE

John O'Connor

For duty provided to the State of New Jersey and the communities of Oakland, Wayne, Pompton Lakes, and Bound Brook during the flooding events of October 2005.

Paul Tumminello

For duty provided to the State of New Jersey and various communities within the Passaic River Basin during the flooding events of October 2005.

Lawrence Mazzola

[North Atlantic Division]

For meritorious service provided to the New York District as Chief, Military Projects Branch from February 2004 to July 2005.

Michael Rovi

For meritorious service while performing as chief, Engineering Division at the New York District, from 15 through 26 November 2005.

The Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service is awarded to employees who have established a pattern of excellence. It is equivalent to the Army Commendation Medal. The Vice Chief of Staff, Army, approved the establishment of the award on 30 June 1976. It ranks directly below the Superior Civilian Service Award. This award consists of a medal, lapel button and citation certificate. A service ribbon and miniature size medal are also available.





Tidbits

Did you know?

For more than a century the Corps of Engineers had its own drama club.

The Essayons Dramatic Club for many years was one of the oldest amateur theatrical production companies in the United States. The club was founded Jan. 27, 1864 by the Engineer Battalion, then serving with the Army of the Potomac and wintering at Brandy Station, Va. The battalion built a small theater and organized an orchestra, and Feb. 26 the troupe presented "Toodles," its first play.

In early April the theater was pressed into service as a guard house, and several weeks later the Engineers left camp to take part in the Battle of the Wilderness.

In the late 1860s the club was reconstituted at Willets Point, N.Y., then the site of the Engineer School. The Willets Point Dramatic Club flourished until the turn of the century when the Engineer School was moved to Washington Barracks, now Fort McNair in the District of Columbia.

In 1919, the Engineer School moved again to Camp Humphreys, Va., later renamed Fort Belvoir. Four years later members of the Engineer School revived the Essayons Dramatic Club, and the troupe gave its first performance in 1923. Except for a pause during World War II, the Essayons Dramatic Club continued staging amateur theatrical productions at Fort Belvoir for the next 45 years. During the 1920s and 1930s the club usually staged two or three productions a year.

With music provided by the 13th Engineer Orchestra, the plays were a popular diversion on post. Most of the actors were officers from the Engineer School, and many had previous acting experience in college or community theater. Most of the actresses were officers' wives, although a few were the daughters of senior officers. Club members built all of the sets.

Following its performance, "Nothing But the Truth" in May 1941 the drama club suspended operations during World War II. The club resumed performing in March 1948 with the presentation of "Her Fatal Beauty" at nearby Woodlawn Hall. Over the years the Essayons Club performed at a variety of locations at Fort Belvoir, and also traveled to local military hospitals and other Army installations. The club continued to perform throughout the 1950s and 1960s.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History



The earliest known photograph of the Essayons Dramatic Club, taken in the spring of 1864 at Brandy Station, Va. The club's members were all enlisted men. (USACE Office of History)



Irish receives medal

Jennifer Irish, regional technical specialist, Coastal Engineering section, Engineering Division received the Army Civilian Achievement Medal in January.

Col. Anthony C. Vesay, commander, Vicksburg District presented her with the award Jan. 5 at a ceremony held there.

Irish was awarded the medal for her work while serving on the temporary housing team in Biloxi, Miss., in support of the Corps' Hurricane Katrina mission.

U.S. Army reserve center opens in upstate N.Y.

By Vince Elias

In early December, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place which officially opened the new U.S. Army Reserve Center at Fort Ontario, Oswego, N.Y. The facility will serve the area's Army Reserve force which will use the facility to train and complete its monthly drill cycles.

Knee-deep in snow, the ceremony was attended by personnel from the 479th Engineer Battalion, 77th Regional Readiness Command, Company B of the 479th Engineer Battalion and Brett Gorham, who represented New York District.

Gorham was the team leader who helped with construction oversight of the 25,058-foot, one-story structure. The structure is a premier training center with a high bay area and basement with training spaces which include an organizational maintenance shop and storage building for use by an engineer battalion.

Louisville District was the RRC program manager and designer for the project.

"Our great teamwork between New York District, Louisville District and the 77th Regional Readiness Command Army Reserve installation management representative contributed towards the successful construction of the project," said Armando Jimenez, project manager for New York District. "The project went very smoothly especially with Joe Salvatore's efforts who kept me in touch whenever there were any issues. The customer was pleased with the project and it was ahead of schedule and within budget."

Matthew Walsh, construction manager helped coordinate construction issues with the project manager. Walsh assisted with funding requests and managed the contingency costs and contract modifications.

"The facility will meet the training needs of our military," said Walsh. "Our soldiers deserve the best facilities we can provide them."

Salvatore, project engineer in the field, accomplished the day-to-day contract management and served as contractor interface for safety, work placement, scheduling and quality assurance.

"Salvatore was instrumental in the facility being built ahead of schedule with minimal contract growth, no injuries and achieving a high quality facility. As a result, the 77th Regional Readiness Command was able to move in early," said Jimenez.

"The facility manager and various officers from the 479th Engineer battalion were very complimentary of the facility," said Gorham. "They are very happy with the project results. Salvatore was particularly singled out by the facility manager for his work in delivering a quality product."



Participants of the ribbon-cutting ceremony stand in front of the new Army Reserve Center. Noted among the guests were PAC & Associates Superintendent, and commanders of the 77th Regional Readiness Command, 479th Engineer Battalion and Company B.



Photos: Brett Gorham

The 77th Regional Readiness Command provided a USARC medallion which is mounted in the gable end of the reserve center at the main entrance.

Announcements and milestones

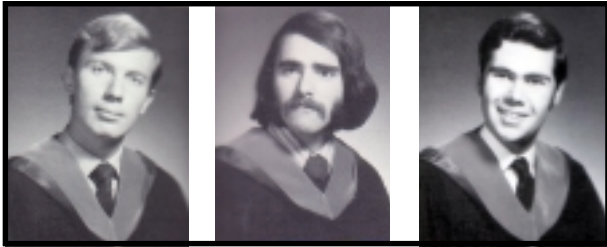


Retirements

Jerry Byrne, deputy chief of Construction retired in February following 20 years of service.

Ron Conetta long-time New York District employee retired in February after a 20-year career.

Jerry Byrne, Ron Conetta, and the present Operations chief Tom Creamer are Manhattan College alumni. Byrne, Conetta and Creamer are pictured during their graduation year in 1972.



Welcome

Doug Sommers, PPMD
 Laura Smith, OC
 Minja Summer, CO (Metro)
 Paul Ancog, CO (Fort Drum)
 Luis Perez, CO
 Gabriel Thoncoso, PPMD

Farewell

Gerry Bryne, CO
 Ronald Conetta, CO
 Kodi Johnson, CT
 Mark Dormann, CO
 Elaine Shipman, RM
 Alan Dorfman, OP

Promotions

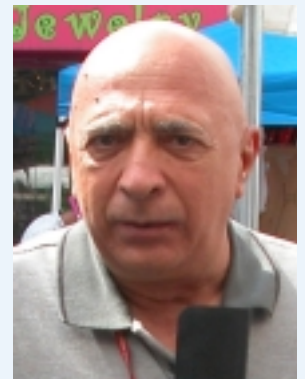


Captain Charlotte Rhee, Contracting Division, and Capt. Trinidad Gonzalez, Northern N.Y. Area Office, were selected for promotion to the rank of major.

The good news was shared with the District in a written announcement sent by the District Engineer. "This promotion to field grade rank is one of the most significant in an officer's career," wrote Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., commander and District Engineer. "Congratulations!"

Announcement

John Scialabba, long-time District icon of Logistics Management and official vehicle operator for the District Engineer has announced his retirement. He is scheduled to retire in March. Scialabba has been the official driver for seven district engineers over a 20-year career in which he was never delinquent or tardy.



Stork Club



Marzena Ellis of Engineering and husband are the proud parents of **Carolyn Nataly Ellis**, born in November. Vital stats: 6 lbs., 2 oz and 19 inches.



Beathany Bearmore of Engineering and husband Mike are the proud parents of **Anna Elizabeth**, born Jan. 27. Vital stats: 8 lbs., 6 oz. and 21 inches.



Rafal Turek of Operations and wife Agata are the proud parents of **Dominik Turek**, born Sept. 20, 2005. Vital stats: 8 lbs., 2 oz.

Boat crews mobilize during emergency ops

In late December, Operations Department personnel in concert with the U.S. Coast Guard and police and fire department divers were engaged in emergency operations that involved recovering two vehicles which plunged into the rivers of New York and New Jersey. The incidents occurred on unrelated occasions.

During the first incident, District Operations personnel were called into action to assist in recovering a Jersey City police truck which plunged into the Hackensack River in New Jersey. Tim LaFontaine, marine supervisor of the Corps' physical support branch, received the request from the Jersey City Police Department.

The crew of the Corps' DCV *Hayward* was immediately mobilized and was on scene. Police divers located and marked the location of the truck. The truck was rigged for removal by the *Hayward* crew and then hauled to the Corps' Marine Terminal and placed on the blacktop for Jersey City Police Department pickup.

The second incident occurred when a New Jersey livery cab plunged off a 300-foot pier into the Hudson River in Manhattan. Boat crews from the Corps, Coast Guard, New York City police and fire departments responded.



Photo: Tim LaFontaine

The crew of the *Hayward* hoists the livery cab from the Hudson River for transfer to a Manhattan pier.

The Corps vessel *Dobrin* was used to locate the car. The crew was able to retrieve the car after receiving the specific location, pinpointed by police divers. The driver's body was recovered by police.

Strong currents and low visibility hindered the recovery. The following morning, the livery cab was hoisted from the Hudson River by the crew of the *Hayward* and transported to a pier on Manhattan's west side.

Media join Corps and EPA and observe pilot project

Area media joined experts from the Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency aboard the Corps vessel *Hayward* to view one of the Corps' dredging projects in the lower Passaic River near Newark, N.J. The project was launched in December and was the first-ever Passaic River dredging pilot operation. The media event was arranged by New York District's Public Affairs staff through the Operations Division.

The removal of 5,000 cubic yards of sediment from a 1.5-acre area in the Passaic River near downtown Newark kicked off a two-part evaluation of environmental dredging and sediment decontamination technologies.

Bill Slezak, chief Harbor Programs, along with Lt. Col. Charles Klinge, deputy commander and others were aboard to answer questions. The event allowed the media to convey the information to the public and to gain an idea of overall status of the lower Passaic River cleanup and restoration.

"This is a critical first step that uses an integrated approach providing us with effective tools. The end result is that these expandable tools will allow us to remediate the contaminated sediments and restore the ecological health of the lower Passaic," said Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., commander, New York District.



Bill Slezak, chief, Harbor Programs addresses the media aboard the Corps vessel *Hayward*.

Corps supports AISES conference and work shop



Corps personnel participants at the AISES Conference. (l-r) Barbara Ray, SAD; Richard Gallegos, SPD; Mark Gilfillan, SPK; Cassandra Dobbins, SWF; Kimberly Oldham, NWD; Marty Goff, NAN; Georgeie Reynolds, HQ Tribal Liaison; Richard Zaragoza, SPA; Daniel Emerson, SAW; Glynn Alsup, SPL; and Dwight Beranek, HQ USACE.

The annual American Indian Science and Engineering Society conference was held in November at Charlotte, N.C. Marty Goff, EEO special emphasis program manager for Native American employment participated in the conference. AISES focuses on native Americans to encourage students to pursue careers in the sciences and engineering.

The Corps, state and private companies had career fair booths with literature for visitors and graduating college students. The fair is a one-day event with workshops throughout the the entire complex.

“Corps representatives worked at the career booth and we received recognition from AISES for our sponsorship of the conference,” said Marty Goff. The Corps provides \$20,000 annually to AISES for the conference.

The career fair is only one day, but Corps members participated and conducted workshops through the entire conference.

Spotlight



During the short time onboard New York District, Alexander Litvak of Real Estate Division was able to accomplish a feat. Litvak hit the ground running and conducted market surveys and negotiated leases for the build-out of two new Army recruiting stations.

“This is an incredible accomplishment,” said Roger Johnson of Real Estate. “Where the new offices are located will contribute immensely to the Army’s recruiting efforts.”

Litvak said he attributes his success to the experience he has gained from his supervisors and mentors, Johnson and Mynor Pivaral.

“These new recruiting stations will greatly enhance the image of the Army and allow for the recruiters expanded access to new recruiting prospects,” said Litvak.

Even though he was extremely busy fielding emergency maintenance requests from recruiters, he also found time to volunteer for duty in the Gulf in support of Hurricane Katrina operations.

Litvak is also the property manager for all recruiting stations in Brooklyn and Staten Island, a total of 23, where he is responsible for emergency requests.



The new recruiting center in New York City will offer high visibility and serves to elevate the image of the Army and recruiters.

Photo: Alexander Litvak

MEPS Commander lauds District design team

Several employees of the New York District work force were recognized for their efforts by Navy Cmdr. Layne R. Boone, commander, U.S. Armed Forces Military Processing Station, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The employees are the 15-member design team responsible for the construction of the new 24,645-square-foot military entrance processing station in Buffalo, N.Y. The Buffalo MEPS is one of a network of MEPS located nationwide and in Puerto Rico. MEPS plays a vital role in maintaining the nation's military might by ensuring that each new member of the armed forces meets the high standards required for military service.

The MEPS bronze coins were presented in November in appreciation for the design team's exceptional work in completing the construction project.

Reciprocal N.Y. District coins were presented to Boone and her staff by Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., commander, New York District.

Located in the snow belt of the Niagara area, the Buffalo MEPS is a tenant activity of the 914th Air-lift Wing, Niagara Falls Joint Air Reserve Station.

The Buffalo MEPS is responsible for processing people for induction into the armed services, based on DoD-approved criteria.

The facility includes a large reception area, offices, medical laboratory, dressing rooms, dining area,



(l-r) Alfred Lin, Natasha Hayes, Freddy Bilbao, Mukesh Kumar, Matthew Emigholz, Col. Richard J. Polo Jr., Ralph L. DeBari, Cmdr. Layne R. Boone, 1st Sgt. Cynthia Walker, Robert Philbrick, Elena Manno, Regina Flynn, Janice Lauletta, Gennaro Cimmino, Armando Jimenez, David Chew, and Thomas Dannemann.

Article and photos: Vince Elias

ceremony room, and storage and communication closets.

In addition to complying with the MEPS standard design criteria and project budget, the design team had to consider the severity of climatic conditions, limited space available for HVAC & electrical equipment, and the local base installation theme.

MEPS DESIGN TEAM

Freddy Bilbao, mechanical
 David Chew, specification writer
 Gennaro Cimmino, lead geotech
 Thomas Dannemann, chief, Design Branch
 Ralph L. DeBari, chief architect and designer
 Matthew Emigholz, computer aided design and drafting layout
 Regina Flynn, lead civil
 Natasha Hayes, interior design architect
 Armando Jimenez, project manager
 Mukesh Kumar, cost engineer
 Janice Lauletta, lead structural
 Alfred Lin, lead electrical
 Elena Manno, lead mechanical
 Robert Philbrick, technical manager



Navy Cmdr. Layne R. Boone, commander of the U.S. Armed Forces Military Entrance Processing Station, New York, thanks members of the New York District design team as 1st Sgt. Cynthia Walker, MEPS New York looks on. The event took place in November in the District Executive Conference Room.

Environmental project is for the birds

By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD

For years birds such as the least terns, common terns, piping plovers and roseate terns have colonized, nested and bred on East Inlet Island in the Long Island Intra-coastal Waterway, N.Y.

A few years ago, these birds were endangered and threatened by urban sprawl until the Corps and other agencies came together and created a project that benefited wildlife. In 2002, in cooperation with several environmental, state and local agencies created a wildlife habitat on the island for threatened and endangered birds using sand dredged from the waterway.

“Once we proposed creating a bird habitat with the dredged sand, we received enthusiastic support,” said John Tavolaro, chief, Operations Support Branch who lead the wildlife habitat project. “Some of our most vocal critics turned around and actually supported the innovative things we were doing. In the past our dredging projects were criticized by some for affecting endangered shorebird habitats.”

Tavolaro said that performing environmentally-friendly projects can be difficult initially, but is beneficial to all involved in the end.

“Being environmentally friendly in projects is an innovation,” said Tavolaro. “It requires creative thinking. As with any innovation or creative endeavor, it helps to have input. You cannot do this without



For years, birds such as the piping plover have colonized, nested and bred on East Inlet Island in the Long Island Intra-coastal Waterway, N.Y.

including other folks who do not look at the world as you do.”

Want to be more environmentally aware? Tavolaro suggests the following:

- Talk to the locals and resource agencies to get to know them and to find out what they value and find out about their top issues.

- Put your heads together with whomever has ideas on how to make your project more environmentally friendly.

This not only brings fresh ideas into the mix but also improves your relationships with these individuals and groups. Tavolaro said that this process has made him a better listener.

Party-goers celebrate holidays in January



Due to the transit strike, New York District's annual holiday celebration was held in January. The delayed celebration didn't hamper the holiday spirit of party-goers as they were entertained by a stand-up comic, feasted on a buffet meal, and danced to the tunes of a disc jockey.





Beyond the Region

Abraham Portalatin of the New York District Safety Office conducted safety briefings for Corps personnel arriving to the Gulf in support of hurricane operations. Portalatin and Sherry Scott of the New Orleans District conducted briefings four times a day in November. The briefings were geared for newly-arriving personnel at the Louisiana recovery field office, Baton Rouge, La. The briefings focused on personnel safety issues including defensive driving and working around poisonous reptiles.



Photo: Peter Versteegen



Alexander Litvak of Real Estate Division, a member of the housing support team, provides quality assurance for trailers and mobile homes in Pearl River County and Hancock County along the Gulf of Mexico in Mississippi. Work included traveling along muddy roads, changing slit tires and being stuck in deep mud-filled trenches.

Carolyn Vadino, public affairs specialist mobilized to the Gulf Coast in November in support of the Corps' emergency hurricane operations. Vadino was one of several volunteers from New York District who were part of Task Force Hope, Mississippi. The Corps cleared tons of debris from private property in Bayou La Croix, where Vadino stands next to a pile of debris. A house behind her lies in a canal.



Corps and USMA leadership, and construction firm representatives break ground at the future site of the new Jefferson Hall Library/Learning Center at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. The groundbreaking marked the start of the 149,000 square foot multifunctional facility project. It will house the library, the center for enhanced performance, and the center for teaching excellence. The library is scheduled to open in 2007.

Photo: Eric S. Bartelt, USMA





Security Office reminder

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

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

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

You will need to print a copy of your training certificate when you complete the training and send it to the Security Office.

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

Thrice nuptials for District couple



Jamal Sulayman, of Engineering and **Rifat Salim** of PPMD celebrated their wedding nuptials on three separate occasions. The happy couple were first married in the summer of 2005 in Brooklyn, N.Y. at a traditional religious ceremony including a reception which was a small family affair.

A big wedding reception ceremony was held in August on Long Island, N.Y. arranged by the bride's parents.

A third reception, arranged by the groom's family, was held in Beirut, Lebanon in November. They spent their honeymoon in Zurich, Switzerland.

