



Plan guides district in transition

By Curt Biberdorf
Public Affairs Office

Layoffs through a Reduction In Force are not happening yet and will depend on the district's balance sheet during the next one to two years, said Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, about the seven-year plan named Operation Crossroads during a town hall meeting at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 27.

More than two years in the making, the plan is intended to reshape the district into an adaptable and flexible organization capable of executing its mission in a changing environment during the next decade, Koenig said.

"My hope is that nobody takes this as a complete gloom and doom situation, but that nobody takes this as a business as usual situation either," he said. "It would be a mistake to do either of those."

Overall workload is expected to drop sharply beginning next fiscal year and turn upward only after FY2017. Correspondingly, income and "Full-Time Equivalents"(FTE)—the amount

of labor equal to one employee working full time—will shrink.

The district's last RIF was in 1994. While this tool is an option, it would be used only as a last resort.

"We kind of have an idea of what the work force is going to look like from a numbers perspective over the next seven years, and (those figures) will inform us whether we need to go down that road or not," Koenig said.

Because income has to match expenses in the Corps of Engineers, the first step in reducing labor costs was a hiring freeze started in 2010.

Work force shaping is anticipated to be influenced by increasing retirements spurred by the transition to full locality pay. Other ongoing steps to minimize costs are trimming discretionary expenses, using in-house staff to fill vacancies, encouraging part-time employment, hiring retired annuitants and temporary appointments, and offering the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments.

VERA and VSIP are an effective and positive means to downsize the work

force, with eight slots approved to date and more opening up, Koenig said.

At one point, work force turnover was more than 20 percent annually, but the economic downturn has slowed voluntary employee attrition.

"A lot of things that we may have to do in the future may be a little bit more painful than if it would have happened in earlier years," Koenig said.

The corporate board knew that the workload would decline and started in 2009 to examine the district's future facility needs, which led to looking at personnel statistics. The team could have taken a short-term approach, but "we're trying to make this as painless as possible and also make sure we're positioned for the future as well," Koenig said.

Defense budget cuts are a leading reason for the new path ahead, with military construction—representing about 50-75 percent of the district workload during the past decade—not only taking the biggest hit but also happening earlier than anyone thought.

On the other hand, humanitarian
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Lynx Wing combines services, adds space

By Curt Biberdorf
Public Affairs Office

More space and combined services were highlighted improvements during a ceremony officially opening the 673rd Medical Group's Lynx Wing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 16.

The new two-story, 34,730-square-foot addition is linked to the west side of the group's main medical facility, its walls decorated with poster-sized portraits of the wildcat after which it is named.

The \$20.2 million project, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District, designed by RIM Architects and built by Davis Constructors and Engineers Inc., joins public and mental health offices formerly spread

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Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Lt. Col. Bobby Stone (left), deputy district commander, presents a ceremonial key to Col. Thomas Harrell, 673rd Medical Group commander, during the Lynx Wing official opening at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Feb. 16.

Plan

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assistance, foreign military sales and environmental remediation are growing programs. Civil works appears to be a stable program, and regulatory funding should continue at the same rate. International and interagency services are in demand from a variety of customers, most recently with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for a potential road project.

Military construction provided predictable funding compared to other programs, but now the district must seek new opportunities to compensate for that decline in dollars.

"That leads to us to being uncomfortable, but we're going to have to be comfortable with that," he said. "We have to bring our game face every day to make sure we're doing what we need to do. If we deliver excellence, our programs will grow."

Potential areas for growth are taking on the Port of Anchorage intermodal expansion project and managing an Arctic Deep Draft Port project.

With workload shifting from military construction, team members will likely be assigned to other programs that are steady or growing, Koenig said.

Supervisors gathered information in a knowledge, skills and abilities inventory to help the leadership avoid hiring someone new when an existing employee in a shrinking program is capable of filling the position, he said.

Two places with plenty of job opportunities are Japan and Korea, where multibillion dollar construction programs are under way and in need of staffing.

Unlike Iraq or Afghanistan, it's a chance for personal and professional growth outside a combat zone, Koenig said.

Employees would receive statutory re-employment rights to the district after three years, which can be extended for two more.

Koenig thanked the team that created

Draft re-employment policy in place

One source of strain on the district's resource management is administrative re-employment rights, said Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, during the Operation Crossroads town hall meeting.

Thirty-five former district employees are entitled to these rights. However, nobody knows if or when they will exercise that option for re-employment, which poses a significant financial liability, he said.

Established in 2004, the policy allowed Corps employees in Alaska and Hawaii to take a job at another Corps office in the Lower 48 for up to three years with the option of extending for another two, then return to their home state with a guaranteed job in the same grade and series.

Pacific Ocean Division started the administrative policy to enable employees to experience professional

development opportunities where they could learn skills that might otherwise be unavailable within their home districts. As a result, returning individuals would be more well-rounded professionals better able to compete for future opportunities and promotions that enhance the overall competency of the district.

However, it was rarely used this way. The division rescinded the policy Nov. 16. The new draft policy is posted on the Operation Crossroads Web site.

Major changes are that administrative or clerical positions are now excluded, and employees in qualified positions must apply and receive the commander's approval. That decision is based on multiple factors, including professional development needs and mission requirements.

Operation Crossroads and praised the plan's future flexibility.

The group decided the best course of action was to reduce costs in proportion to the decrease in annual workload as well as gain efficiencies by combining or eliminating office functions to help reach a balance.

One example of the ongoing effort to consolidate is the realignment of workforce management staff. Division chiefs also are working on a revised organizational structure, such as merging the Engineering and Construction Operations divisions. Regionalization of some functions is being considered as well, with the technical library already going that direction.

Koenig cautioned that income and expense estimates are very conservative because potential new work and employee retirements are not part of the calculations. He said that through the course of Operation Crossroads, semiannual budget reviews will better

define how the district is tracking toward meeting its goals.

What is happening is nothing new to the organization. The Army Corps of Engineers has evolved and changed since its inception 236 years ago.

"When it comes to the execution of the engineering mission here in Alaska, we certainly have that down and will continue to have that down into the future," he said.

Division-level meetings were the next step in the discussion to boil down topics relevant to each team.

"We want you to get a better understanding and overview and be sure that you know where the available resources are to help guide your future actions and help formulate the particular questions you need to ask," Koenig said.

To learn more and stay updated, employees can view the Operations Crossroads site on the employee intranet, which includes a question and answer page.

GOLD NUGGETS

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Lynx Wing

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across the installation and provides a new home for the Air Force's only mild Traumatic Brain Injury center.

Lt. Col. Bobby Stone, deputy district commander, presented a ceremonial key to Col. Thomas Harrell, 673rd Medical Group commander, during the event. Stone recalled the high level of command interest in the project as it was being built and said he was impressed with the result.

"This is really about the team over the years. The medical community and the Corps had a great relationship as well as the Air Force and Army," Stone said.

It's the latest in nearly 1 million square feet and \$360 million worth of medical facilities constructed by the Corps since 1998, including the hospital connected to the wing.

The 673rd Medical Group hospital is a Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs joint venture, serving eligible veterans as well as service members and their families.

"Our job here is to create solutions for the folks who come to us for care and to be innovative in delivering that care," said Col. Thomas Harrell, 673rd Medical Group commander.

In the Lynx Wing, the second floor contains alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment services, family advocacy and mental health clinic offices.

The first floor houses public health functions, which consist of community health, deployment medicine, food safety and sanitation, nonfly medical clearances, occupational health and

preventive health assessment.

Harrell said public health staff members reach out into the community to perform their mission as well as care for individuals in the facility. Behavioral health is also "extremely important," and the team is focused on the resiliency necessary to continue to function under wartime stress.

Sharing the first floor is the TBI center, which houses three clinics specializing in neurology, pain management and mild cases of traumatic brain injury, all using the latest technological equipment and treatment tools.

Any beneficiary can use the facility, as brain injuries also occur outside of combat.

Just as the public health service reaches beyond the clinic itself, TBI professionals work with the entire medical group except for obstetrics, Harrell said. These services are all collocated here because "those patients need things to be as easy as possible when they are seeking their care," he said.

Harrell added that all of the patients they serve are valuable, and his team is ready to help.



(Above) A waiting area on the second floor is part of the expanded space combining multiple services into one area for improved efficiency. (Below) The Lynx Wing is connected to the west side of the JBER hospital. (Photos by Curt Biberdorf)



District support of Iraq reconstruction ends

By John Budnik
Public Affairs Office

The beginning of 2012 marked the end of nearly a decade's worth of deployments by Alaska District employees in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Iraq reconstruction effort.

The district's final deployee returned Jan. 1, the last of 117 employees who volunteered to serve since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and Operation New Dawn in 2010.

The district kept the number of deployments high during the mission because of the many volunteers, said Deborah Fletcher, the district's deployment coordination administrator from 2003-2011.

Before becoming an official Army unit and while still an all-volunteer on-call group, Alaska's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance was the first to deploy Feb. 22, 2003, before the war was technically declared.

Clarke Hemphill, civil engineer, was on the team. He said they supported the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Engineer Group, in both Kuwait and Iraq and assisted with bridge inspections, flood analyses and public works project estimates. The team spent two months in Kuwait and one month in Iraq before returning June 5, 2003.

Hemphill said that the Alaska FEST-A team worked with the Marines previously on an exercise in Japan and made an impression.

"The Marines requested the Alaska District (FEST-A) by name," Hemphill said.

Recruitment for the overseas assignment happened soon after war broke out. Civilian deployments occurred after volunteers emerged within the district, with calls for a variety of professional skills such as engineering, administration, information technology, contracting, human resources and legal.

Candidates for deployment were medically screened and immunized. Hemphill said the vaccinations for smallpox and anthrax were the more peculiar shots needed. They learned about available resources to them before deploying through Fletcher.

During and after deployment, these



Courtesy photo

(Crouching) Dave Franzen, Alaska District Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance member, inspects a damaged bridge while deployed to Iraq early in the war. Members of the temporary FEST-A in Alaska were the first of 117 district employees who deployed to support the reconstruction effort.

employees and their families learned about available resources through Kris Stoenner, family readiness coordinator, to ease the transition as much as possible.

Those who deployed contributed to restoring oil production and infrastructure projects, such as the construction and renovation of health facilities.

Iraq now produces 3 million barrels of oil per day in planned capacity. Water and sewer projects are benefitting more than 5 million Iraqis, and residents have another 7,000 megawatts on the electrical grid. Medical treatment capacity has increased to nearly 6.6 million patients in hospitals and 4.6 million outpatients at public health centers, according to USACE figures as of February 2011.

Whether out of patriotism, selfless

service or career opportunity, volunteers had their reasons for leaving the comforts of home to deploy.

"The district has employees willing to go above and beyond expectations," Fletcher said.

The Corps will maintain a significant reconstruction mission and presence in Iraq for years to come, according to USACE Headquarters. The Gulf Region Division in Iraq inactivated last summer when the Middle East District's Iraq Area Office became the primary project manager for the Corps after a transfer of authority ceremony June 2, 2011, near Baghdad.

The area office took on unfinished projects and expects to continue operating with 30 Army civilians as long as there is work, said Roger Thomas, Construction Operations Division chief.



Photo by John Budnik

(From left) Deirdre Ginter of the Hydraulics and Hydrology Section assists Ben Hazlett, Kayla Hayes and Gregory Shack in constructing a model of a breakwater in the atrium annex during Alaska District's "Bring Your Youth to Work Day" Feb. 17. They were among the 43 children who also learned about cost engineering, dredging, archaeology, wetlands and geographical information systems in designated stations in the headquarters building. During the afternoon, the youth toured the William "Jack" Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery and the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Wildlife Education Center.

Youth visit Corps for day of fun, learning

By John Budnik
Public Affairs Office

Passion for your interests will lead to success, said Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, during his welcoming remarks to the 43 children attending Bring Your Youth to Work Day at the headquarters building Feb. 17.

Organized every other year, the activities and presentations allow youngsters to learn about the passion of the people and their mission at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District.

This year emphasized the interaction between engineering and the natural environment.

Youth gathered in the Talley Room to start the day with an orientation about various functional areas and programs, such as security, resource management and humanitarian assistance.

The children then broke into four age-based groups and rotated through

activity stations on cost engineering, suction dredging, breakwater design and construction, and geographical information systems, with each session lasting about 25 minutes.

At the cost engineering station, the activity leaders challenged the children to construct a bridge across a four-inch gap in 15 minutes or less. Materials available were caramels, marshmallows, candy beans, ice-pop sticks, pretzel sticks and toothpicks.

A value was assigned to each construction material. For instance, a caramel "cost" \$3 and was the most expensive building material, while a pretzel stick and marshmallow were at the low end at 50 cents. Judging criteria were total cost, aesthetics, creativity and value.

Learning about civil works activities, the groups constructed a miniature scale model of a storm breakwater using their knowledge of how these barriers are knitted together by large and small boulders along with other materials.

However, the day was not all about the Corps as the adventure continued outside the building.

Afternoon guided tours consisted of visits to the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Wildlife Education Center and the William "Jack" Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery, the largest indoor sport fish hatchery in North America, according to HDR Inc., the engineering firm that planned and designed it.

At the hatchery, the children saw several pools with each containing more than 250,000 fish that will be used to stock rivers and lakes throughout Alaska.

During their stay at the wildlife center, an environmental protection specialist taught the kids about an assortment of Alaskan fauna.

Other afternoon events back at headquarters were stations on archaeology, environmental sampling and wetlands, allowing for more hands-on activities and learning opportunities.

Employee achieves 50 years of federal service

By Pat Richardson
Public Affairs Office

Allan Skinner has 50 years of stories about people he has met during his federal career. Some of his tales are about the famous, some are not. Some are about Alaskans, and some are not.

The regulatory specialist received a certificate Feb. 2 for 50 years of federal service from Col. Reinhard Koenig, the 13th commander to serve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District since Skinner came to the district in 1974. He remembers that his first commander was Col. Charles Debelius, who drew cartoons of himself with large eagles on his shoulders for the district newsletter.

Skinner started his federal career in 1959 after graduating with a bachelor's degree in conservation from the University of Wisconsin. His first federal job was as an investigator/enumerator with the Commerce Department explaining the 1960 census. After working a year for his home state of Wisconsin, he re-entered federal service with the National Park Service, filling a series of seasonal ranger jobs in several states during the early 1960s.

In 1965, he took a permanent position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as chief ranger at the Lake Isabella Project on the Kern River in California. In 1967, he moved to the Corps' Huntington Lake project on the Wabash River in Indiana.

In 1974, Aurora Loss, a former distinguished employee, hired Skinner as an environmental protection specialist for the Alaska District. He joined the seven-person permitting section of the Regulatory Operations Branch. Others in the office were Angie Murdock (now Gori), Dave McGillvery, Paul Chatari, Ken Avery and Randy Jacobs.

Skinner's brother, an Air Force master sergeant, worked as a jet mechanic on Elmendorf Air Force Base at the time. Skinner said he came to Alaska not because of his brother, but because he had been interested in the state his whole life. He had subscribed to "Alaska Sportsman" magazine "ever since I could pay for it" in the early 1950s, he said.

During his 38 years at the Alaska District, Skinner has seen permitting

grow from a single office in Room 112 to become a Regulatory Division with more than 40 people occupying the ground floor of the headquarters building annex with field offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, and a single regulator in Sitka.

In 1974, the permitting section only regulated Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The Clean Water Act was enacted in 1977, and the Alaska District started enforcing Section 404 in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

For the first 10 years, Skinner worked on permits for log transfer facilities and remote logging float camps, mostly in Ketchikan and Sitka. He occasionally traveled to Southeast Alaska for permitting and compliance inspections.

"Our biggest handicap remains inaccessibility," Skinner said. "We rely on locals, often from sister agencies, to tell us about activities. We have to ask someone who has been there for information."

In the past year the Regulatory Division digitized all its records into a searchable database using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

funding.

"We ran AI's name through the database and found 500 documents with his name mentioned 1,258 times," said Bill Keller, North Branch chief and Skinner's supervisor for the last seven years. "He is always focused on the customer, and I have never had a customer complain about AI."

"We see lots of dreams," Skinner said of permit applications for projects that never happen.

Skinner's fondest regulatory memories are road trips with Don Rice, who retired in 2010. After regulations were revised to include placer mining, Skinner and Rice drove to Eagle to explain the permitting process to placer miners.

Suddenly coming under the jurisdiction of a federal agency was unpopular with the independent miners. To their credit and their "good-old-boy-we're-here-to-help-you" approach, they had no trouble. One miner even invited them to his house and showed them a can full of gold nuggets that he sold to tourists. In the Native village of Eagle, a resident offered them roasted

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Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Allan Skinner, regulatory specialist, accepts a certificate in recognition of 50 years of federal service from Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, during a ceremony at the headquarters building Feb. 2.

Around the district

In memoriam



Merv Mullins, civil engineer in the Emergency Management Office, died Feb. 29 after an extended illness. His wife, Margie, was by his side and expressed her deep appreciation for all the support the district provided. Mullins served in the federal government for more than 40 years. In the past year, he received the Bronze Order of the de Fluery Medal for outstanding contributions to the

Engineer Regiment and was inducted as the 19th member of the Alaska District Hall of Fame.

Real estate chief elected

Tom Kretschmar, Real Estate Division chief, was elected president of the International Right of Way Alaska Sourdough Chapter 49. Since its inception as a not-for-profit association in 1934, IRWA has united the efforts of its members toward professional development, strong ethics, and improved service to employers and the public, along with advancements within the right of way profession.

50 years

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porcupine. They declined.

“Road trips with Don were most interesting,” Skinner said.

Rice always drove the car. Twice they were stopped for going too fast, and twice they talked themselves out of receiving a traffic ticket. On the way home from Eagle, a state patrolman pulled them over near Palmer. Skinner recognized the young trooper as the stepson of a co-worker. By the time they finished chatting with him, the trooper let them go without a citation. Another time, Rice was driving too fast inside Denali National Park. A National Park Service ranger stopped them, but again their friendly chatter got them out of a ticket.

“I’ve met a lot of nice people and just a couple of knuckleheads,” Skinner said.

Although he has been working on computers for many years now, Skinner has minimal computer skills.

“Computers were after my time,” he said. “I worked with slide rules and protractors.”

He remembers when all public notices and permit records were sent to women in the Operations Branch to be typed. “We physically mailed all public notices,” he said.

He remembered seeing Regulatory public notices posted in small town post offices next to the wanted posters. In those days, the Alaska District had its own reproduction department, which printed all the public notices.

“We caused the death of 70,000 trees,” he said of the high volume of printing done in-house.

In 1977, Skinner won a districtwide contest sponsored by the Safety Office. Skinner’s winning entry, “I’m a Bear on Safety” logo, was placed on the district’s hard hats for many years.

Arctic Thunder preparing to roar

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson has scheduled the biennial Arctic Thunder Open House for July 28-29, featuring performances by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team and U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Demonstration Team. A Thunderbirds flight demonstration exhibits choreographed refinements of skills possessed by all Air Force aviators. The pilots perform nearly 40 maneuvers in a demonstration. The entire show, including the beginning ground ceremony, lasts about one hour. The Golden Knights Parachute demonstration Team serves as the “Official Ambassadors of the Army” by performing parachute demonstrations for the American public. The open house will include static displays and demonstrations of U.S. military aircraft and equipment as well as joint military demonstrations and civilian aerial acts. Additionally, civilian aerial acts are scheduled to perform.

Vendors, aerial acts, businesses, organizations or others interested in participating in the Arctic Thunder Open House may contact the JBER Arctic Thunder Open House office at 552-7471 or 552-7477 or via email at arctic.thunder@elmendorf.af.mil or JBER.Openhouse@elmendorf.af.mil. Visit the Web site <http://www.jber.af.mil/arctictThunder/> for the latest information.



Photo by Doug Hart

Warrior transition

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents a ceremonial key to Capt. Daniel Corbett, Company B commander, Warrior Transition Battalion, at Fort Wainwright during the opening of the unit’s Warrior In Transition complex Feb. 28. The \$22 million project consisted of constructing a barracks, administrative and operations facility, and soldier and family assistance center. The project was certified as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver level by the Green Building Certification Institute Feb. 22.

Upcoming events

March 1-31	Women's History Month
March 21	Industry Day in Anchorage
March 22	Celebrate Safety Awards (Anchorage)
March 23	Celebrate Safety Awards (Fairbanks)
March 29	Women's History Month food sampling
May 2	Safety Day
May 3	Federal Employees Awards Luncheon

Pre-retirement seminars set for 2012

The Federal Executive Association announced its pre-retirement seminar schedule for FY2012.

The free benefits training sessions for CSRS and FERS employees fill up fast, and seating is limited. Classes are from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

In Anchorage, dates for FERS employees are April 11, June 13 and Sept. 12. The CSRS date is June 14. Sessions are conducted at the Federal Building Annex, 222 W. 8th Ave., Mod G, Conference Room A, B, C.

In Fairbanks, the FERS date is April 20 and CSRS date is April 21. Sessions are conducted at the Westmark Hotel, 813 Noble Street.

In Juneau, the FERS date is March 9 and the CSRS date is March 10. Sessions are conducted at the Federal Office Building, 709 W. 9th Street, Room 285.

For enrollment forms and information, visit this link: <http://www.fea.gov/Documents/Training%20Documents/FEA%20FY-12%20Pre-Retirement%20Schedule.htm>

Contracts awarded

Organizational Parking Lot—The district awarded this FY2012 design-bid-build contract to TBI Construction Co. Feb. 16. The estimated \$3.58 million project will construct nearly 38,000 square yards of parking for the tactical equipment maintenance facilities on JBER-Richardson.

Brigade Complex Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility—The district awarded this FY2012 design-build contract to Unit Co. for \$24.84 million Feb. 2. This is one of three contracts for the Brigade Complex Phase 2 project to complete the bed down of the 2nd Engineer Brigade at JBER-Richardson. The project will construct a brigade headquarters; battalion headquarters with classrooms; a tactical equipment maintenance facility; organizational storage; oil, hazardous material and open storage; administrative space and relocation of a recreation vehicle lot.

Brigade Complex Recreational Vehicle Lot—The district awarded this FY2012 design-bid-build contract to Ancor Inc. for \$2.35 million Feb. 2. This is one of three contracts for the Brigade Complex Phase 2 project to complete the bed down of the 2nd Engineer Brigade at JBER-Richardson.

FUDS receives more project funding

The Eielson Farm Road Formerly Used Defense Site received another \$1.9 million for FY2012 to remove

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Photo by John Budnik

Commo check

Ed Luteran, quality management assistant in the Engineering Design Branch, completes a high frequency communications test with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Readiness Support Center in Mobile, Ala., Feb. 8. HF communications tests are completed once a month in accordance with the Corps' Communications Systems Check Program. The test occurred at the district headquarters during the state of Alaska's cold weather exercise "Alaska Shield." Alaska District's emergency management team participated in the exercise to validate response plans and procedures Feb. 6-12.

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additional quantities of contaminated soil. The Fort Glenn FUDS project received \$2.2 million to fully fund the remedial investigation and time critical removal action for FY2012. With the extra funding, the district’s FUDS operating budget for FY2012 has grown to \$49.3 million.

TV show may generate more permitting

Regulatory Division answered more than 100 phone calls about permit requirements for placer mining in Nome. The inquiries coincide with the airing of the new Discovery

Channel reality series “Bering Sea Gold,” which follows dredge miners seeking gold off the coast of Nome. This interest may lead to a flurry of permit applications.

Deployments

Afghanistan—Juliet Brown, Theodore Champine, Annette Crerend, Leanna Dagley, Roger Green, John Keys, Patricia Lora, John Mitzel, Heather Moncrief, David Purdy, April Shepherd, Sharon Thomas, Jim Wolfe

Returned—Warren Colburn, Laura Sheldon, Gary Weiler



Roger Green of the Northern Area Office deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, as a program manager Feb. 12 and is scheduled to return Feb. 11, 2013.

Sharon Thomas of the Southern Area Office deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan as an engineer technician and is scheduled to return Feb. 11, 2013.

Annette Crerend of the Program Management Division deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan Jan. 22 as an administrative assistant and is scheduled to return July 21.

April Shepherd of the Southern Area Office deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, Jan. 22 as an administrative assistant and is scheduled to return July 21.

Farewells



Photo by Mary Abbott

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents the Army Commander’s Award for Civilian Service to R. David Williams, Special Projects Branch chief in the Contracting Division, during his farewell ceremony Feb. 22. After nearly 10 years of service in the Alaska District, Williams accepted a new assignment as the Contracting Division chief at the Honolulu District.



Photo by John Budnik

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents Clarke Hemphill of the Engineering Division with the Army Superior Civilian Service Award at his retirement ceremony Feb. 29. In addition to his duties as a civil engineer in the Civil Works Branch, Hemphill served on a Forward Engineer Support Team -Advance, and deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations and disaster recovery missions. He retired with 31 years of federal service.