



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Alaska District

GOLD NUGGETS

'Building and preserving Alaska's future'

April 2012



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Aric Schuster, project engineer for The Dutra Group, accepts the 2011 Contractor of the Year award on behalf of Dutra Dredging Co. from Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, during the Celebrate Safety ceremony at JBER-Elmendorf March 22. Dutra won the award for its outstanding safety performance during work on the Saint Paul Harbor Improvement Phase 3 project.

Safety achievements celebrated

By Curt Biberdorf
Public Affairs Office

Contractors and district staff celebrated their 2011 safety achievements in ceremonies at JBER-Elmendorf March 22 and Fort Wainwright March 23.

Eight companies and two individuals as well as a contractor of the year winner were honored at the events, which also recapped the district's progress in safety and upcoming changes.

In FY2011, the district achieved a 50 percent reduction in lost workday cases, 17 percent drop in restricted duty cases, and 10 percent cut in Occupational Safety and Health Administration reportable cases.

"We really appreciate what you have been able to do for the Corps of Engineers providing quality work for us as well as keeping your workers and our people safe on the jobs," said Buster Godwin, Safety and Occupational

Health Office chief.

The lost workday rate goal was to be maintained below 0.35, and the district finished the year with 0.24. By comparison, the average construction industry lost workday rate in the United States and Alaska last year was 1.5.

Construction trades make up just 6 percent of the U.S. work force, but are involved in about 26 percent of accidents. As far as the type of OSHA citations for FY2011, falls lead the way and cause the most serious injuries followed by punctures, "struck-bys" and strains, Godwin said.

As a business filled with risks, instilling and maintaining a culture of safety awareness is essential, said Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander.

"The culture influences the action people take on a minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour basis, and that's why culture and this process where we celebrate success in the safety process

Continued on Page 3

Industry Day discusses opportunities

By Curt Biberdorf
Public Affairs Office

Even with military construction declining, contracting opportunities with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District will remain plentiful.

More than 100 local business representatives learned that and more during the 2012 Industry Day in Anchorage March 21 sponsored by the Associated General Contractors of Alaska with the district serving as a major participant.

The event gave business professionals a chance to network with each other and form collaborative relationships with government representatives.

Half of the more than 650 Alaska businesses represented by AGC are construction contractors, and AGC values its partnership with the Corps since it is one of the largest contracting agencies in the state, said John

Continued on Page 2



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Alaska District employees talk with business representatives during the "meet and greet" portion of the 2012 Industry Day in Anchorage March 21.

Industry

Continued from Page 1

MacKinnon, AGC executive director.

"I've heard for a long time that federal funding is going to decline, and I expect it, but I also expect that we'll make the best of it," he said.

In three morning presentations, district leaders discussed the latest on the workload and contracting climate.

Valued partnership

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, reviewed six major district programs, including historical workload figures. The spike in military construction starting in the early 2000s is dropping sharply partly because of federal budget cuts.

Still, small businesses executed projects worth hundreds of millions of dollars in past years in various programs, and many new opportunities are available, particularly in environmental, and international and interagency programs.

Because of the cutbacks, the district is reshaping to ensure it is flexible and adapts to the changing workload, and the construction community will hopefully do the same, Koenig said.

"We value that partnership, and in order to deliver excellence, we have to be on the same team moving forward to get these things done," Koenig said.

In FY2010, the district almost reached its 33 percent annual goal for small business contracting while executing about 1,400 contracting actions valued at more than \$400 million. Last year improved, and for FY2012, the district is on track to achieve most of its goals.

"We use forums like this to get the word out that we do take small business seriously because we want this to be a successful program," Koenig said.

Despite any real or perceived barriers regarding federal contracting requirements and procedures, he encouraged businesses to take that extra step to contract with the Corps because the rewards will be worth the effort.

"Everything we do in the Corps of

Engineers relies on a strong, robust community of contractors and folks who are experts in construction to get things done," Koenig said.

It's even more important in Alaska because of the remote location, short construction season and arctic environment.

"Anything we can do to help you become a great organization, I certainly and my staff are committed to doing that," he said.

Larry McCallister, director of Programs and Project Management, continued with specific workload figures.

The historic \$100 million to \$300 million military construction program that soared during the past several years reversed course surprisingly fast, and the out years show slight improvement.

Military construction expected a \$480 million budget for FY2013 that plummeted to nearly \$18 million, pending congressional approval, with about \$100 million to \$200 million pushed to FY2014.

Bright prospects

Small businesses can still participate in military projects, especially those set aside based on how well they would fit with a smaller company. In some cases, the district seeks a specific group in order to meet all statutory requirements, McCallister said.

"The small (business) program is looking pretty good, and there will be great opportunities for some of these big projects coming up for small businesses to jump on or be the prime contractor," he said.

Projects in other programs also will remain a source of work for small businesses.

"We appreciate all the support you provide to us and the great partnership that we have had over the past several years," McCallister said.

In a contracting update, the district

will continue to divide contracts equally into indefinite delivery indefinite quantity, open marketplace and small business set asides because this method has yielded the best results, said Chris Tew, Contracting Division chief.

Exceptional performance

"Although the work may be declining in Alaska, the commitment to small business is not waning at all," Tew said. "We're really proud of our performance."

In eight of the last 11 years, the district exceeded its small business goals, which is a deliberate effort of the district, Small Business Administration and industry. A shift in the district's mission should help further engage this group, he said.

The Alaska District leads the Corps of Engineers in this area, and it is a credit to the contractors who perform with very few failures, Tew said.

Competition has improved significantly in the past five to seven years, with single bids on a project no longer happening, and it is at the level it needs to be, he said.

Tew believes that small businesses will adapt to the district's changing workload. An example of a new program that has grown in the past five years is humanitarian assistance in Southeast Asia.

"It's not hard to go from virtually nothing to something if you perform well at it, and I think we can learn from those models and adapt and be just fine," he said.

His division now has nearly 25 percent fewer staff members than two years ago, and the challenge is becoming more efficient and effective to continue providing a high level of service, Tew said.

Other difficulties include policy changes and a smaller Historically Underused Business zone resulting from the 2010 census.

Although government contracting is not getting easier, the contracting community is doing a "fantastic" job, and the future looks good, he said.

GOLD NUGGETS

Commander

Col. Reinhard W. Koenig

Deputy Commander

Lt. Col. James R. "Bobby" Stone

Director of Programs and Project Management

Dr. Larry D. McCallister

Chief of Public Affairs

Tom Findtner

Media Relations Specialist

Pat Richardson

Editor

Curt Biberdorf

Public Affairs Student Intern

John Budnik

The "Gold Nuggets" is an electronic newsletter published monthly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District Public Affairs Office for the Alaska District work force.

The "Gold Nuggets" is authorized by Army Regulation 360-1. The contents are not necessarily official views of or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

E-mail inquiries may be sent to: public.affairs3@usace.army.mil or Curt Biberdorf. View the Alaska District Web site at www.poa.usace.army.mil and Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/AlaskaCorps>.

Celebrate

Continued from Page 1

is so important," Koenig said.

Safety precedes quality and schedule because calling a construction project a success is difficult if somebody is injured or killed on the job. "We all agree that accidents are avoidable," he said.

The Army's safety regulation and OSHA standards provide the minimum workplace safety requirements. Successful businesses recognize that integrating safety into a project also helps avoid costs and lost time when an employee is injured, Godwin said.

For this year, new challenges include changing metrics and more environmental hazards as the district expands its work in the Far East.

The Corps' lost workday rate reporting is shifting to Days Away Restricted or Transferred. Industry uses this measurement because it has been an OSHA standard for years, but that means DART will likely be almost triple the number of the lost workday rate.

"We think we are going to be able to

meet this metric goal of 0.67, but it will take work on your part as well as ours," Godwin said.

Celebrate Safety has traditionally consisted of a formal evening banquet, professional speaker and award presentations, but it switched this year to workday breakfast ceremonies at Fort Wainwright and JBER-Elmendorf to reduce costs. Nomination packages were also simplified and are based on the previous calendar year's projects.

The format may be different, but the celebration of contractors and individuals who have accomplished outstanding work will remain.

"Our purpose is going to be the same: to recognize and promote the culture of excellence and safety through teamwork," Koenig said. "It is to share lessons learned and best practices so we can all get better."

Safety Achievement Awards

- Brice Environmental Services Corp., contaminated soil removal at the Eielson Farm Road Anti-Aircraft Artillery Formerly Used Defense Site

- CH2M Hill Constructor Inc., 3rd Air Support Operations Facility at Fort Wainwright

- Dutra Dredging Co., contractor of the year, Saint Paul Harbor Improvement Phase 3

- G2 Construction Inc., Urban Assault Course at Fort Wainwright

- Kiewit Building Group Inc., barracks project at Fort Wainwright

- Marsh Creek LLC, Chena Flood Control Phase 2 clearing

- Watterson-Davis JV, F-22A Weapons Loading Crew Training Facility at JBER-Elmendorf

- White Mountain Construction LLC, Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity small construction Petroleum Oil Lubricant projects at various locations

Individual Safety Awards

- Patricia Bowen, Fairbanks Resident Office, Urban Assault Course at Fort Wainwright

- Charles Croley, Bristol Environmental Remediation Services LLC, Northeast Cape Hazardous Toxic Radioactive Waste remedial action

Regulatory resolves Clean Water Act violations

Two oil, gas companies conducting seismic surveys in Cook Inlet Basin

The Alaska District resolved March 15 two separate violations of the Clean Water Act by two oil and gas companies conducting 3-D seismic surveys in the Cook Inlet Basin.

The violations delayed both companies' schedules and reduced the amount of area they could survey during the winter, said Kevin Morgan, Regulatory Division chief.

"The Corps takes seriously our responsibility to protect Alaska's aquatic and historic resources, while allowing reasonable development," Morgan said.

The first case stemmed from permit violations by Apache Alaska Corp., which was conducting a 3-D seismic survey in a 684-square-mile area near Tyonek.

The State Historic Preservation Officer notified the Corps that Apache had drilled a number of shot holes within a Corps permit stipulated no-drill buffer of previously undiscovered cultural resources.

In addition to meeting standards established in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Corps permittees must also comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Upon being notified of the permit non-compliance, Apache agreed to not detonate the 13 charges located in the no-drill buffers of four cultural resources.

Furthermore, Apache failed to complete an archeological survey before drilling shot holes as required by the Corps permit.

An archeological survey is necessary to identify and

protect cultural resources from being damaged by the drilled holes and detonation of explosives placed in them.

To comply with the permit, Apache proposed to disable the explosives within the 13 shot holes and not detonate them in order to avoid damage to the four cultural resources, and the Corps accepted this solution. To complete the cultural resource survey, Apache volunteered to delay starting their operations after a scheduled end-of-year break and proposed a modified plan to survey for cultural resources.

The Corps consulted with the state, two federally-recognized tribes and others to develop a programmatic agreement that included mitigation for the adverse effect caused by Apache's seismic survey.

The second violation involved Buccaneer Energy and its contractor, Weems Geophysical. The companies discharged fill material into waters of the United States associated with drilling more than 800 shot holes in wetlands after applying for, but before receiving, a Clean Water Act permit for the activity.

The companies were conducting a 3-D seismic survey in Kenai. When the Corps notified them that they were in violation of the Clean Water Act, the companies agreed to cease their activities.

The Corps resolved the case by granting an after-the-fact permit for the activity. The Corps permit also authorizes Buccaneer to drill an additional 266 shot holes in wetlands adjacent to the mouth of the Kenai River.

The Corps permit requires the activity to be done when the ground is frozen and no closer than 500 feet from the Kenai River to mitigate the activity's adverse effects.

Courtesy of Regulatory Division

Complexes simplify services for wounded warriors

By Curt Biberdorf
Public Affairs Office

Within a week, two new complexes officially opened for the Army's Warrior Transition Battalion-Alaska.

The \$22 million Fort Wainwright Warrior Transition Complex for Company B marked its beginning Feb. 28 while the \$43 million complex for Company A and battalion headquarters at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson celebrated its start March 2.

The U.S. Army Corps Engineers-Alaska District managed both projects as the construction agent for the Army and Air Force, including much of the medical community in the state.

"We're proud to accomplish this," said Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, before handing over a ceremonial key to Capt. Mitchell Casteel, Company A commander.

The battalion operates the facilities that assist ill or injured soldiers who require complicated care lasting six or more months, with about 10 percent of these "wounded warriors" entering the unit because of battlefield injuries. By the end of their stay, these troops will return to their same job, move to a new position in the Army, or be prepared to enter the civilian work force.

More than just a campus of buildings, the Warrior Transition Battalion primarily services as a place to heal, said Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, U.S. Army-Alaska commanding general. It also helps the affected unit, especially when its leaders are not necessarily experienced at dealing with their troops' recovery.

Several dozen of these battalions exist across the Army's Warrior Transition Command, and as of March serve more than 10,000 soldiers, Palumbo said.

"Imagine you are a major corporation and you had 10,000 employees who weren't working in their jobs. How profitable would you be?" he said. "That's the commitment the Army is making to our soldiers to get them well."

Before the new complex was constructed at JBER, the unit, housing and services the soldiers needed were spread across the installation. All of these functions are now located conveniently next to medical and Veterans Affairs buildings.

Both complexes consist of a Soldier and Family Assistance Center, barracks, and administrative and operations facility, with JBER being larger as it also houses the battalion headquarters.

The assistance center offers a wide array of services and learning opportunities. It's a "one-stop shop" for career counseling, identification cards and services important during the transition process. It includes a small kitchen and

separate child care room.

"This makes it more comfortable for whatever situations the soldiers are going through," said Sgt. 1st Class Kelechi Madubuko, battalion training and operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

At the company building, nurse case managers and administrative functions are consolidated under the supervision of company leadership. The battalion building staff oversees both companies, and includes other healthcare employees essential to healing and recovery.

"Everybody can come together. It's phenomenal," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Pearson, 2nd Platoon sergeant at Company A. "We're self-supporting. Everything they need is here."

The two-story barracks building has rooms designed to meet the needs of its tenants. Compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, rooms are adaptable and feature handicap showers and toilets as well as wheelchair accessible kitchens and walk-in closets. Room amenities include cable television and Internet access.

"We have had a world-class team for a long while, and now we have a world-class facility to match," said Lt. Col. Jason Benefield, Warrior Transition Battalion-Alaska commander.

Leaders and caregivers help soldiers develop and execute comprehensive transition plans, each as unique as the soldier, to accomplish the next phase of their lives.

(Both facilities) will contribute to that success, Benefield said.

The battalion accomplishes its mission when each soldier leaves the unit confident and equipped for success, but it is the soldiers who do the work. Many of them are successful alumni, he said.

He recounted one soldier who shared his story with others assigned to the battalion.

"He couldn't talk or walk after a brain injury but recovered those abilities," Benefield said. "He had a very powerful message that if he could recover, they can recover."

Others overcame cancer and post-traumatic stress disorder and were role models for other soldiers.

"They won't all return to duty, but each one of them will leave this battalion better than when they arrived," Benefield said.

Palumbo said the battalion and new facilities are a shining example of the Army's commitment of providing the best possible care for soldiers.

"It sure is heartwarming and feels good to have a wonderful place like this and wonderful leaders come together to help our soldiers," Palumbo said.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, presents a plaque to Capt. Mitchell Casteel, Warrior Transition Battalion, Company A commander, during the official opening of the Warrior In Transition complex at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson March 2.

Hair-razing act funds cancer research

By John Budnik
Public Affairs Office

The Alaska District Engineers Federal Credit Union recently got a new look.

No, the office wasn't remodeled with new carpet, paint and countertops, but one employee's new hairdo created a noticeable change.

Julie Ebben, CEO and manager, shaved her head during a charitable event at a local Irish pub to support her daughter's campaign to raise money for the St. Baldrick's Foundation March 10. Debbe Ebben, daughter of Julie, is a beauty queen and competes in pageants held by the Miss America Scholarship Foundation.

Each competitor chooses a public service called a platform. Debbe's platform has been to raise money for children's cancer research for the past 3 1/2 years with St. Baldrick's. Her fundraising goal was \$2,500 for the charity before an upcoming competition in June.

Debbe made the commitment to shave her head if she reached the amount, and mom volunteered to go hairless, too.

"I told her that I was real proud of her for what she selected and that if she meets her goal, then I'll shave my head with her," said Julie. "I don't think she believed me."

Debbe didn't meet her goal the first year she took on the challenge, but still donated 10 inches of hair that year to Locks of Love, an organization that provides hairpieces to children experiencing long-term hair loss from a medical condition. Debbe and Julie found out at the end of December 2011 that she had met her financial goal for the platform along with confirmation of their soon-to-be new hairstyles.

"I had no qualms about it," said Julie. "As a mother, I can't see a child suffer."

This isn't the first time Julie has made a dramatic hairstyle choice. While her mother battled breast cancer, she chopped off 2 1/2 feet of her long and curly locks, hair she said everybody talked about. Her hairdresser made her think about the choice for a month before finally committing because it can be a traumatic experience for some



Photo by Phil Evans

Julie Ebben (right) poses with her husband, Tim, and daughter, Debbe, after having her head shaved March 10 in support of Debbe's efforts to raise money for children's cancer research through the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

women, Julie said. She donated that hair to Locks of Love.

"Because I am blessed that I am not sick and fighting a cancer, it was very liberating," she said about having her head shaved.

Julie and her daughter agree that people tend to focus on appearance and equate baldness with being sick. Since shaving her head, Julie said she has been asked if she is ill, notices a few extra looks in public and has been met with extra kindness.

For Julie, shedding her locks provided a new sense of freedom from the fight against graying hair. She made the choice to no longer color, too. Her daily routine became a lot easier since shaving her head, leading to less stress in the day.

"It's so easy to get ready! I love it," Julie said. "If your hair is just not what you want, then you're crabby. I hate to

say it is true, at least for me."

The event of Julie and Debbe shaving their heads at the charitable event was featured on local television station, KTUU Channel 2.

The day after the story aired, someone called the Ebbens and donated an additional \$1,000. Their story has since been picked up by The Associated Press, and friends and family have either viewed or read about it as far away as Iowa and Florida. It has created an influx of donations bringing their total to over \$6,000 with more calls expected.

Julie doesn't mind people asking about her shaved head and even encourages it by wearing a St. Baldrick's button that reads "Ask me why I'm bald."

With tremendous support from her husband, Julie said she would do it again in a "heartbeat."

Snowmachine Rendezvous

Alaska District's Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project in North Pole hosted the 11th annual Snowmachine Rendezvous and an open house March 10. Traditionally taking place at the recreational lakes and flood control area, this year's family-focused events were set up around the new administrative building. Activities consisted of a safety rodeo and snowcross races for children as well as a display of older-model snowmachines for all ages. The event promotes safe and responsible snowmachine riding.

Left: "Tired iron" are parked for viewing.
Bottom: After securing a helmet and exiting the tent, participants in the safety rodeo prepare to tackle the course.



Photo by Tim Feavel



Photo by Jake Kresel



Photo by Jake Kresel



Photo by Tim Feavel

Around the district

Employees of Second Quarter named

Outstanding employees and team of the FY2012 Second Quarter are as follow:

Engineer/Scientist GS-05-12—Neil Folcik

Support GS-02-10—Erica Wilson

Support GS-11-15—Tom Findtner

External Team, Succeeding on Construction Projects Training Seminar—John Brown, Jon Bush, Nicole Knox, Craig Lance, Trent Larsen, Steve Mandt, Andre McMillan, Brian Midyett, Paul Schneider, Greg Shearer, Andy Sorum and Carla Spires

Class planned for cultural awareness

The DoD Alaska Native Cultural Communications Course is set for May 21-23 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The course is highly recommended for anyone who regularly works with Alaska Native communities, tribes or both and is free for district employees. Register by April 27. For more information, contact Amanda Shearer at 753-5674.

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 last CSRS date is June 14. Sessions are conducted in the Federal Building Annex at 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 in the Westmark Hotel at 813 Noble Street.

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

Dredging contract awarded

The district awarded a five-year, \$5 million contract to Alaska Marine Excavating of Anchor Point for dredging Ninilchik Harbor beginning in late April, as well as Homer Harbor and the Coast Guard's Hickory Berth at Homer in September. The Corps dredges to maintain shipping access in support of Alaska's commerce. The Alaska District outsourced dredging to private industry starting in 1989, after years of using government-owned dredges. The Corps is responsible for annual maintenance dredging at Anchorage, Homer, Ninilchik, Dillingham and Nome, and periodically at 40 other harbors across the state. The Corps also maintains navigation channels at several communities.

Mining permits expected to increase

Regulatory Division's Victor Ross and Ellen Lyons spoke at the biennial Alaska Miners Association conference in Fairbanks March 19-20 about the Regulatory Program and how it impacts the mining industry. Regulatory's Mining Team is reviewing its interactions with this industry, and the goal is to reduce the number and type of reviews required. It anticipates a larger than normal influx of mining-related permit applications for both placer and hard rock deposits.



Judgment day

Mike Utley (left), chemist in the Geotechnical and Engineering Services Branch, and Jose Oquendo, electrical engineer in the Design Branch, evaluate projects during a science fair at Orion Elementary School on JBER-Elmendorf. They were joined by Beth Astley, Birdie Budnik, Chris Floyd, Anne Fore, Scott Haan, Alisha Kerschbaum, Margaret Maatta and Mike VonBuhr. The Alaska District employees volunteered to judge science projects at Orion March 22, Abbott Loop Elementary School in Anchorage March 21 or both. (Photo by Curt Biberdorf)

Upcoming events

April 19	Holocaust Remembrance Day
May 2	Safety Day
May 3	Federal Employee Award Luncheon
May 21-23	Alaska Cultural Communication Course
May 25	Peter Topp Conference Room Dedication

Nationwide permits announced

Final nationwide permits became effective March 19. Pacific Ocean Division announced March 20 the release of regional conditions for Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Area to the 50 nationwide permits issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

The permits with the regional conditions streamline the permitting process used by the public and businesses when working in waters of the United States. The regional conditions are necessary to tailor the permits in consideration of the unique environments in the Asia-Pacific and Alaska regions. The announcement culminates an in-depth evaluation

that included an extensive public review and consultation in coordination with federal and state agencies, stakeholders and interested members of the public.

These permits are reissued every five years and were last done in 2007. The reissuance re-evaluated and updated the permits and the regional conditions to minimize the effects on local aquatic ecosystems associated with waters of the United States.

Submit your photos

High-resolution photos of employees participating in various recreational activities or hobbies in Alaska are needed to create the "Active in Alaska" photo page in the Arctic Engineer magazine. Send photos to Curt Biberdorf.

Deployments

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

Returned—Theodore Champine



Women's History Month

In recognition of Women's History Month, employees gathered for a food sampling session March 29. They also had the opportunity to view various forms of artwork created by women in the district that were on display in the headquarters building. (Photos by Curt Biberdorf)



Accolades



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Mike Redmond, former Construction Operations Division deputy chief, accepts a plaque commemorating the induction of his late wife, Trish Opheen, as the 21st member of Alaska District's Hall of Fame from Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, during a ceremony in the headquarters building March 6. Opheen retired in June after serving the district for 33 years as a team leader, office engineer, project manager and Engineering Division chief.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander, pins an Army Commendation Medal onto Capt. Brett Witters, project engineer in the Southern Area Office, during a farewell luncheon March 20. Witters was honored for his outstanding service to the district from Sept. 17, 2011 to Jan. 22, 2012. His next duty station is Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



Photo by Curt Biberdorf

Pat Coullahan, Construction Operations Division chief, accepts the 2011 Anchorage Post Society of American Military Engineers Wheeler Medal from Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander. He received the award for his service to SAME and the Alaska District.



Courtesy photo

Capt. Dan Fox, project manager in the Humanitarian Assistance Program, accepts the 2011 Anchorage Post Society of American Military Engineers Engineer of the Year award from Col. Reinhard Koenig, district commander.