



## Corps senior leaders visit the Soo

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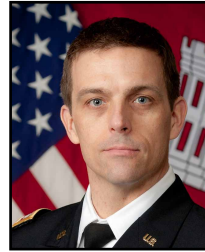
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**COVER:** Mark Barker, president of Interlake Steamship Co. (holding hardhat) speaks with Brig. Gen. Margaret Burcham, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division commanding general, aboard the freighter Robert R. Tregurtha at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Also listening are Col. Frederic Drummond Jr. and Lt. Col. Robert Ells, commanders of the Chicago and Detroit districts, respectively. Senior Corps leaders toured the vessel during a visit to the Soo Locks. (See Pg. 6 photo.) Photo by Carmen Paris

## Commander's Column

# Mariners' Church, Detroit District share ties for nearly two centuries

Team Detroit, I want to take the opportunity in this edition to focus on another one of my priorities: relationships. In this case, a relationship the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has with a historic site in downtown Detroit – the Mariners' Church.



Lt. Col. Robert J. Ells

As the district commander, I have been invited to the church on three occasions to take part in annual ceremonies linked to the Great Lakes: the Great Lakes Memorial service, the Blessing of the Fleet and the Navy League service.

In preparation for each of these events, I have learned a bit about the history of Mariners' Church and its ties to the Corps of Engineers.

Following is a portion of that history excerpted from the church's website:

*In August 1818, Julia Ann Taylor Anderson came to Detroit with her new husband, Col. John Anderson, and her sister Charlotte, when this city was still a frontier emerging from the traumas of fire, war, famine and plague in the first two decades of the 1800s. Anderson, a West Point graduate, was commissioned to open the initial precursor to the Army Corps of Engineers on the upper Great Lakes. He and his wife acquired a double lot by the Detroit wharfs near the foot of Woodward Avenue.*

*With the opening of the Erie Canal, the invention of steam-powered boats and the burgeoning of Detroit, Julia Anderson and her sister Charlotte observed increasing numbers of seamen traversing the city. These sailors were too often marginalized and treated as outsiders — relegated to the back of society, and literally, to the backs of churches. With a heart of compassion, Julia Anderson, a widow since 1834, willed in 1842 that her "lot on the corner of Woodward Avenue and Woodbridge Street in Detroit" become "a site for a Mariners' Church..."*

*She also specified that it be a stone church*

*built for the ages, with "forever free" pews so that mariners would not have to be relegated to the back. It was a common practice of the day for churches to charge pew rentals.*

*Initially organized in 1842, within a year Mariners' commenced upon its mission to watch over the spiritual well-being of sailors and the greater community, and the current stone structure was consecrated in 1849 on the spot where a UAW monument sits today in Hart Plaza — on Jefferson, between Woodward & Griswold. This was the original site of the home of Col. John & Julia Anderson, purchased during the colonel's first visit to Detroit in 1808. In the 1950s, the city of*



Life Magazine photo

*Work crews prepare to move the 3,000-ton Mariners' Church about 900 feet down Jefferson Avenue. The building was moved in 1955 and now is located near the Windsor Tunnel.*

*Detroit needed the church's Woodward lot for part of its revitalization plans. Some began calling for the building's demolition, but the citizens of Detroit had a better idea.*

*Remarkably, the stone 3,000-ton building was moved 900 feet east to its current location in 1955 to make way for a new civic center. Its current location next to the Windsor Tunnel is the original location for the offices of the Army Corps of Engineers, then the U.S. Corps of Topographical Engineers, that Col. Anderson established upon his arrival in Detroit.*

*On Nov. 11, 1975, former rector Bishop Richard Ingalls, Sr., rang the church bell*

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# Corps children enjoy a day of learning

Hands-on learning was the order of the day April 25 as more than two dozen enthusiastic children participated in Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day at the Detroit District headquarters.

The children learned what their parents do at work and saw presentations on topics including engineering, computers, water safety, overseas and emergency deployment, and public affairs. The day was partly intended to promote STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — fields the Army Corps of Engineers recognizes as essential to the nation's future security and economic strength.

Jim Selegean, hydraulic engineer with the Great Lakes Office of Hydraulics and Hydrology, used the Soo Locks replica he designed and built to explain how the locks work and why they are important.

The children crowded around to take their turns at lifting and lowering the lock gates to let the miniature freighter through.

“We learned about the Great Lakes and how boats can get through and some don't,” one participant said.



Photo by Tom Black

Maj. James Booth, left, and Lt. Col. Robert Ells gather with children on 'Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.'

Pam Horner and Bridget Rohn of the Environmental Analysis Branch taught the children about solids, liquids and gases. For example, they mixed vinegar and baking soda to form carbon dioxide.

“My favorite part was when we were at the science part, to see the bubbles exploding,” one student said.

Patty Jeske of Logistics Management, who was born deaf, showed her assistance dog Carley to the children and had the canine perform a few tricks.

Several of the children spoke glowingly of their four-legged friend, stating that interacting with Carley and marveling at her tricks was the day's highlight.

A video presentation on Asian Carp was the day's highlight for a couple of boys. One of them summed it up like this: “Me and my Dad getting to watch the flying fish!”

Jim Starks of ACE-IT provided an overview of the Corps' use of information technology, explaining the danger of hackers and the need for security. His co-worker Christian Marzan pretended to be a hacker and invited the children to “attack” him by throwing plastic balls at him. Near the end



Photo by Tom Black

Children check out an experiment conducted to demonstrate how freezing a rubber ball in dry ice took away its bouncing capability.

of the day, the children gathered information for this article and learned about how to produce a publication.

Most of the children remarked how much they loved the food and snacks offered during the course of the day. A few of them enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant with their parents.

One student summed up many of his peers' sentiments when he stated the best part of the day was “getting to spend time with Mom while she's at work.”

And, of course, having a day that was different and full of discovery — a fun change of pace from the routine of school — meant a lot to many of the children.

## Continued from Page 2

29 times in memory of each sailor lost in the sinking of the giant ore carrier Edmund Fitzgerald. This act was immortalized in the Gordon Lightfoot ballad, “The Wreck of the

Edmund Fitzgerald.” His son, Father Richard Ingalls, Jr., followed his father as rector in 2006.

I encourage you all to take the opportunity to visit this historic build-

ing at 170 E. Jefferson Ave. and learn a bit more about its ties with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Thank you for the incredible work you do on a daily basis.

# Seasonal employees find winter work

By Tom Black

Public Affairs Office

For Detroit District seasonal employees and the entire Corps of Engineers, wintertime deployments are a “win-win” proposition. Other districts are able to supplement their work crews with experienced workers to complete important projects, while Detroit employees avoid a wintertime furlough and gain new skills.

This past winter, about a dozen seasonal employees accepted assignments in other districts. Their work ranged from conducting hydrographic surveys to drilling for soil samples to upgrading electrical wiring at USACE campgrounds.

“They often perform duties very different from what they do in the Detroit District, and return with additional knowledge and skills to share with their teammates,” said Mike O’Bryan, chief of the Engineering and Technical Services Division, ETS. “They get to see how things are done in other districts as well as share our work practices and knowledge.”

Robert Meyer of the Kewaunee Field Office assisted the Little Rock District with dam alignment surveys along the Arkansas River. The exacting nature of the work required that it be done in the evenings to avoid sunlight and heat refraction on the water.

“Never having worked a second shift, working at night was a great transition,” Meyer said. “I really appreciated not waking up to an alarm clock for about three months.”

Charles Rogers and Ben Wittum of the Soo Area Office helped out in the New Orleans District, taking soil samples near levees in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. “They’re really good people,” Rogers said of his

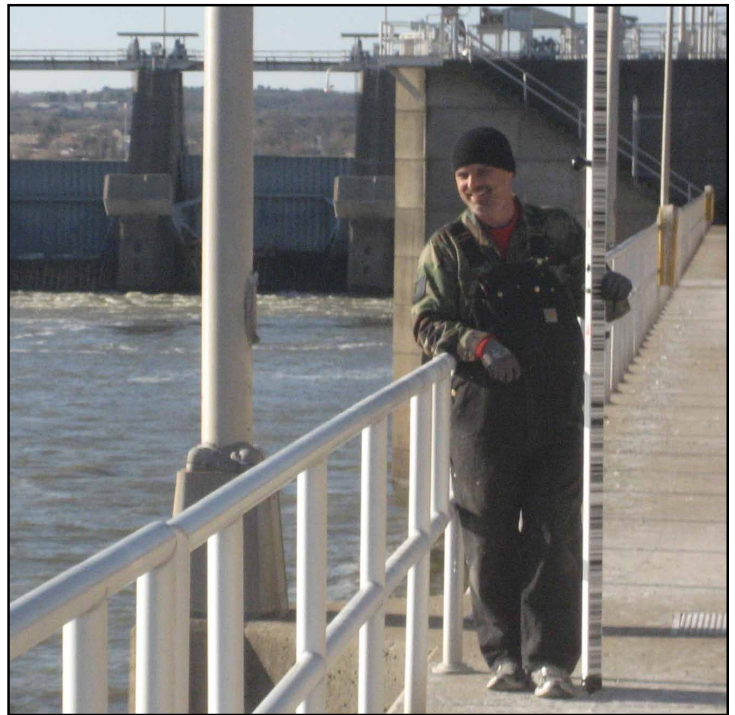


Photo by Duane Ketzler  
Robert Meyer of the Kewaunee Field Office displays a dam surveying instrument at the Lake Fort Smith Riverwall in Arkansas.

New Orleans colleagues. “You couldn’t ask for better people. We really enjoyed our stay there.”

The admiration was mutual. “They made an immediate impact on our organization, and no doubt contributed significantly to our success,” said Dwayne Blanchard, chief of the Survey Section for the New Orleans District. “Without their hard work, we would have had to delay many jobs and would not have been able to respond to two emergency boring requirements. I want to thank the Detroit District for deploying them to New Orleans.”

The Baltimore District also needed help with soil sampling due to a much heavier than anticipated workload. Dan McMaster of the Detroit Area Office and James Norenberg of the Duluth Area Office answered the call, filling in as drill rig helpers with the district’s Field Exploration Unit. The unit performs sub-surface investigations for geotechnical and environmental studies.

McMaster helped out at the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee in south Florida. Norenberg was assigned to projects at Letterkenny Army



Photo by Robert Meyer  
Robert Dudley of the Little Rock District sets up on an Arkansas bridge for an evening of dam alignment surveying at Table Rock Dam, Branson, Mo.

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## Retiree Weiser stays active volunteering, working part-time

*Editor's Note: Beginning with this issue, Soundings will publish brief updates on Detroit District retirees. Please send suggested retiree names to:*

*lrepao@usace.army.mil*

Jeff Weiser retired from the Detroit District in 2004 after 30 years of service with the district. Since 2009 he has worked off and on for the Corps' Headquarters Office and the Transatlantic Division doing project management and strategic planning.

A resident of Oak Park, Mich., since 1976, he enjoys doing volunteer work for Arts, Beats & Eats, River Days, The Parade Company, Motown Winter Blast, Gold Cup, the Detroit

Grand Prix, North American Auto Show and Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau. His hobbies include golfing in the Corps League, collecting lapel pins (he has over 3,000 of them), and entering contests.

"I enter about 100 different contests each day," Weiser said. He won a Jeep Compass in a New Balance shoes contest and a trip to Los Angeles from *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine.

Weiser and his wife Paula have two sons, Matt, an attorney, and Todd, a Food Network executive, both of whom live in Brooklyn, N.Y., and work in Manhattan.



*Jeff Weiser, right, joins former Detroit Red Wing Mark Howe at the 2013 Michigan Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony.*

## District implementing 'Ready Army' preparedness program

The Detroit District Office of Emergency Operations is encouraging managers to spread the word to employees about Ready Army, a mandatory preparedness initiative.

Ready Army (<http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/>) divides preparedness into three main themes: Build a Kit, Make a Plan and Be Informed.

Pamphlets, posters and fact sheets available on the site describe different types of hazards, how to build a preparedness kit and how to create a plan of action for use in the event of an emergency.

The site also offers a downloadable preparedness video and child-oriented materials such as puzzles, animal posters and activity sheets.

Numerous links lead to other organizations providing information on disaster preparedness and response, including FEMA and the American Red Cross.

Pat Kuhne, chief of Emergency Operations, said Ready Army posters will be displayed in work areas on the sixth and seventh floors of the McNamara Building as well as in all of the area offices.

"As we have seen recently with the devastating tornado in Oklahoma, emergencies happen at the worst possible time, and when you least expect them," Kuhne said. "Being prepared at home is essential for your family's safety and well-being.

Having an emergency kit handy where all in your household knows its location can make a huge difference."



### Continued from Page 4

Depot in Franklin County, Pa., Fort Meade, Md., and Highland Park, N.J.

"The work they did was invaluable, and allowed us to maintain project schedules and meet our commitments to our customers," said Robert "Clint" Kneten, chief of the Field Exploration Unit. "Both men were knowledgeable in working with machinery, were heavy equipment operators and were able to step right in and perform with the drilling crews with little instruction."

Three other Detroit District employees, Mark Dreifuerst of the Keweenaw Field Office, Ray Frana of

the Duluth Area Office and Mike Smith of the Detroit Area Office, worked in the Tulsa District. They installed a fire detection system at a hydroelectric plant in the Robert S. Kerr Reservoir near Sallisaw, Okla.

O'Bryan said the workers' wintertime contributions to other districts enhance the Detroit District's reputation.

"We receive many compliments regarding the high caliber of employees we send, their work ethic and can-do attitude," he said. "This means other districts will continue to call on us when there is a need."

# Bartreau departs for domestic deployment

By Tom Black

## Public Affairs

Angelique Bartreau, a project management specialist with the Program and Project Management Office, departs in June for a deployment with a Navy unit – her fifth in the past 11 years.

Bartreau, a full-time Corps employee since June 2010, reports to the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center, ECRC, in Little Creek, Va. ECRC's mission is to provide support to all Navy "individual agumentees" who support Army units during their deployments. Bartreau will serve as a liaison for Navy personnel who need technical assistance while training and preparing to deploy with the Army.

"I'm looking forward to new challenges," she said. "This will be an entirely new team that I'll be working with, and my first mobilization without the SeaBees." "SeaBee" is a nickname for the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion based on "CB". Bartreau deployed with the SeaBees to Rota, Spain in 2002 and 2003; to Kuwait in 2007; and to Afghanistan in 2010.

Bartreau has appreciated her deployments in different ways. "I was able to travel and explore during my European deployments while maintaining a base camp for forwarding moving units. But during my Middle



U.S. Navy photo

Angelique Bartreau, left, joins fellow Navy SeaBees in 2010, celebrating completion of an outside deck for the United Service Organization in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

East deployments, the focus became more about how I could help others on a personal level," she said. She volunteered at a medical trauma center and helped sort and deliver care packages to injured troops.

One of Bartreau's projects in Kandahar, Afghanistan was to assist in constructing a massive outside deck for the United Service Organization. She also became involved with the Wounded Warriors Project, a commitment she continues to keep. "To help others who needed it is rewarding," she said.

After a few weeks in Little Creek, Bartreau will be assigned to Fort Dix, N.J., for additional training. "After that, I've been told to expect heavy travel," she said. She could end up at as many as a dozen different Army bases that facilitate training of individual agumentees.

Bartreau said she is grateful for the care packages troops receive while deployed. The packages typically contain letters and items like bar soap, chewing gum, toothpaste, newspapers and magazines, all sent by thoughtful friends, coworkers and loved ones. "The daily acts of random kindness and generosity by people amaze me," she said. "It restores your faith in the goodness of humanity."

One thing has remained constant through all her deployments, Bartreau said: "Being a part of something so important to the nation is very fulfilling and makes me feel very proud to be in the military."

## Command staff tours freighter *Tregurtha*



Photo by Carmen Paris

Command staff observe Chief Engineer Richard Laksonen at work in the engine room of the Paul R. Tregurtha as the vessel prepares to proceed through the Poe Lock. Senior leaders, lawmakers and commercial shipping officials met in March at the Soo Area Office to learn more about the Soo Locks and discuss regional issues.

# Understanding your role in ensuring quality

Every one of us plays a critical role in ensuring the Detroit District does quality work.

There are many things that help guide us. It starts from the top with our USACE mission statement.

Here is the new version: "Provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters."

Next we have our Quality Management System that you are all familiar with. Process 501 - Regional Business Process Introduction, starts at the very basic level, talking about how we are organized and how we manage for quality and success.

Process 510 - Quality Policy Statement, gets to the heart of the matter in the first sentence: "The Great Lakes and Ohio River Region is committed to doing the right things,

the right way, for the right reasons and to continually strive for improvement." We follow that up with Process 511 – Regional Quality Objectives and Related Measures.

This process helps to define how we measure quality through the obligation of funds, reducing lost time accidents, operation of our projects, supporting contingency operations, balanced permit decisions, and continual improvement.



Scott Thieme

So you might ask yourself, what does this have to do with me?

We should all be able to state, in a few short sentences, what we do every day that supports quality execution in the district. We all have different roles, but still support the overall objectives above.

I, for example, support the vision and quality policy by ensuring that

we think through our project decisions so that we do the right thing, not just the quick or easy thing. I help provide the right people and resources to each job. I help with coordination of issues with Corps division and headquarters staff as well as stakeholders. I assure appropriate reviews are being completed and we all challenge each other to catch and fix mistakes.

All these things support producing a quality product. Everything you do daily supports quality as well. Please take a few minutes each week to review the Qualtrax documents. Think about the tasks you perform, how you address quality in each phase and changes you could make to improve our success.

Thanks for all you do and remember to keep quality at the top.

*Scott Thieme, deputy district engineer for project management, is the Detroit District Quality Champion.*

## Be aware of heat dangers as summer approaches

As summer nears, be sure to remain alert to the signs and threats of heat illness.

Working in a hot environment can be difficult – even fatal. Heat can create safety problems and illnesses, including heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which can be fatal. These illnesses fall under the general term hyperthermia.

Heat can also cause you to become inattentive, short-tempered, dizzy and slow. Hot conditions can be caused by the weather or by the work situation itself, such as a laundry-room or a foundry. When the atmosphere is humid, the effects of the heat are compounded.

Following are the key warning signals of heat illness:

**Heat Cramps.** Primarily affecting arm, leg and abdomen muscles, heat cramps may occur while at work or rest. They signal the body has lost too much salt through sweating.

**Heat Exhaustion.** This is a serious condition that requires immedi-

ate attention. Its symptoms include a feeling of exhaustion, nausea, dizziness, pale and clammy skin, quick pulse and low blood pressure. Heat exhaustion is also a warning that the mechanism controlling heat for the body has become seriously overtaxed. Heat stroke may follow if heat exhaustion is not treated.

### Heat Stroke.

This can be fatal and occurs when the body's heat control mechanism simply shuts down. Perspiration stops and body temperature rises. The heart pounds and the skin becomes flushed and hot. This condition is a medical emergency and must be treated immediately.

Following are some tips for preventing heat illness:

*Get used to working in the heat gradually.* For example, if the weather suddenly turns hot or you are transferred to a hot environment, take it easy until you become accustomed to the warmer temperatures.

*Drink water often to avoid dehydration.* The body loses water through perspiration, so you need to replenish it frequently. Do not drink alcohol or beverages containing caffeine because these cause the body to lose water and salt.

*Take frequent rest breaks when working in hot conditions.* Breaks can consist of moving to a cooler area or switching to lighter work for awhile.

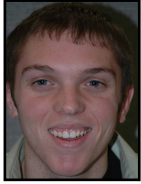
Get a physician's advice before replacing salt, particularly if you normally restrict your salt intake.

*This article was provided by Safety Officer Scott Resch.*



# Employees of the Quarter

## Second Quarter 2013



**Timothy Smith**  
Engineering and  
Construction  
Office

**Timothy Smith**, a civil engineer in the Engineering and Construction Office, has shown leadership and great technical skills, contributing significantly to the design objectives on numerous critical projects, including the Manistique Sea Lamprey Barrier in Michigan; Knowlton Creek (Minnesota); and the Mahoning Dam Service Bridge (Pennsylvania).

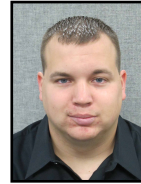
Smith's initiative, technical knowledge and leadership are enormous assets to the Engineering and Construction Office. His exemplary performance reflects great credit upon himself and the Detroit District.



**Jeffrey Fritsma**  
Lake Michigan  
Area Office

**Jeffrey Fritsma** has excelled as a biologist in the Regulatory Office. His hard work and dedication have significantly contributed to the district's mission. He has participated in numerous public meetings representing the Regulatory Office during a time when low water levels have generated an increased demand for dredging, and his involvement has helped raise awareness of the public and smoothed the application process.

Fritsma's performance, teamwork and dedication are exemplary and reflect great credit upon himself and the Detroit District.



**Curtis Sedlacek**  
Environmental  
Analysis Branch

**Curtis Sedlacek**, an archeologist in the Environmental Analysis Branch, EAB, has stepped up to lead EAB's efforts in developing a geographic information system database. He has been recognized within the district and by other agencies for his professional demeanor and work efforts. Sedlacek demonstrates dedication to his role as the district's new archeologist, producing high quality products, and accomplishing his work on time to meet project schedules. His performance and dedication are exemplary and reflect great credit upon himself and the Detroit District.

*Innovator of the Quarter*



**Carole Bell**  
Resource  
Management  
Office

**Carole Bell** was awarded the Quarterly Employee Innovation Award for creating timely and efficient tracking / close-out procedures for government travel cards of departing employees. Her process has been adopted division-wide, improving the way we do business. Bell supports all in the district with an open heart, thorough familiarity with CEFMS and a solid knowledge of the rules and regulations.

Her consistent ingenuity and dedication are exemplary and reflect great credit upon herself and the Detroit District.

## CORPS SPEAKS

**Pat Kuhne**, emergency management chief, recently gave two presentations about the Detroit District Emergency Management Office capabilities and authorities. He spoke to the Saginaw All Hazards Committee, Saginaw, Mich.; and to officials from Ottawa and Gratiot counties.

**Lt. Col. Robert Ells**, district engineer, spoke April 28 to Sea Cadets at the Mariners' Church in Detroit on Navy League Day, which honors the youth in the Cadet Corps. He provided an overview of the Corps and Detroit District, and discussed the five main challenges facing the Great Lakes: low lake levels, a dredging backlog, dredged material management, the Soo Locks and the St. Clair River compensating works.

Hydraulic engineer **Jim Lewis**, lead forecaster of Great Lakes water levels for the Great Lakes Office of Hydraulics and Hydrology, spoke in April to the Lake Erie/St. Clair Citizen Fishery Advisory Committee. The presentation, at Cabela's in Dundee, Mich., dealt with basic Great Lakes hydrology, water levels, the water balance, forecasting water levels and dredging. The 30 people in atten-

dance asked questions about evaporation, St. Clair River dredging, and the Corp's ability to control water levels.

**Tom O'Bryan**, area engineer at the Lake Michigan Area Office, recently spoke to about 25 people at the Grand Rapids Sail and Power Squadron in Grand Rapids, Mich. He discussed the Detroit District's mission, Great Lakes water levels and water safety. In April, O'Bryan spoke at a district-wide dredging meeting in Grand Haven, Mich., sponsored by U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Zeeland). He discussed channel conditions, dredging schedules, and funding for West Michigan harbors from the Super Storm Sandy relief bill. In attendance were 35 municipal and state leaders from across Huizenga's district.

**Carl Platz**, a project manager with the Lake Michigan Area Office, spoke May 17 on "Water Resources Engineering" at Spring Lake Middle School in Spring Lake, Mich. He addressed four separate classes of 8th graders as part of a career day event sponsored by Junior Achievement.

