

## BUSINESSES COME TOGETHER AT INDUSTRY DAY





# CONSTELLATION

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Baltimore District hosts its first Industry Day.  
-- Photo by Mikell Moore



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**Be sure to check out our online communities!**

*<http://about.me/usace.baltimore>*



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# CONTRACTOR SUPPORT IS THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS



**G**reetings from the Baltimore District! I hope you are looking forward to 2014 as much as the District and I are.

My entire team, from project and program managers to our project development team members, is building on our success from last year. On pages 4-5, you will see our 2013 Infographic – two pages of facts and figures from our project-focused support to customers. This is a snapshot about what we were able to accomplish with customer support in all of our major business lines – from military construction to environmental restoration to Chesapeake Bay dredging to recreation and more.

During the year, this team demonstrated flexibility – we endured furloughs and quickly adapted to uncertainty in government funding. While that has been resolved for this year, I hope you are proud of the District workforce and our focus to press on and get the job done even during unique turmoil.

You will note in this issue of the Constellation how we highlight our relationship to the broader contracting community. We hosted an Industry Day in November, attended by more than 600 contractors, where Rep. Ruppersburger and I emphasized the need for a robust contracting community to bid on our military, environmental and other contracts. I am grateful for his support and the continuing strong interest from contractors.

Work continues on multiple military construction projects at each of the main installations that we support. This includes the Defense Information School expansion and renovation on Fort Meade, Md, a new regional headquarters building for the Defense Logistics Agency at the Defense Distribution Center-Susquehanna in New Cumberland, Pa.; the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases on Fort Detrick.....just to name a few.

In the Chesapeake Bay, we continue to build Poplar Island with dredged material from our work keeping the Baltimore harbor approach channel at its authorized depth. Dredging federal channels is an historic Corps mission, and it is great that we can then use that material as clean fill to continue rebuilding Poplar Island.

In the midst of all of this activity, I ask that you remember our Baltimore District teammates who are forward deployed in Afghanistan. We still have a dozen people there this year as the District provides the expertise to support the Corps in completing multiple construction projects. We look forward to hearing about their success and a safe return to their families.

*Essays! Building Strong!*



*Trey Jordan*  
COL Trey Jordan  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District Commander

# U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT BY THE NUMBERS



The Baltimore District's workload is divided between secure environment, military construction, civil works and environmental services. In addition to these programs, our other missions include emergency management, interagency services, regulatory, sustainability and the operation of the Washington Aqueduct.





**38,000**  
recycled tires used to  
create the Greenside  
Pathway at Raystown Lake

**100 Projects**  
the District's FEST-A team  
completed 100 projects in  
just 9 months.

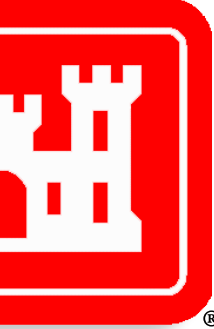
**\$2 Billion**  
Design Management  
services for projects worth  
\$2 billion

**118,000 Gallons**  
of liquid waste per day can be  
decontaminated by USAMRIID's  
Steam Sterilization Plant

**170 Projects**  
The Military Munitions Design Center  
supported over 170 projects.

**8 Installations**  
Eight BRAC installations had  
ongoing environmental  
compliance activities

**13**



**23 Installations**  
supported by Installation Response  
Program through investigations,  
studies, remediation and monitoring

**\$300,000**  
annual savings generated  
by Defense Logistics  
Agency's solar wall

**25 Countries**  
Citizens from 25 countries  
visited Poplar Island

**\$1 Billion**  
7 ground breakings and  
ribbon cuttings on projects  
totaling over \$1 billion

**\$546,700,000**  
obligated to  
small business

**5,700**  
Permit applications issued  
by the Regulatory Program

**\$37 Million**  
in storm damages  
prevented by dams & levees

**400,000 Square Feet**  
of Anti-Terrorism Force Protection  
compliant space leased

**880 Feet**  
of Anacostia River stream reach  
restored at Batchellors Run

**50 Wells**  
Ongoing sampling at 50  
groundwater monitoring  
wells at Spring Valley

**\$22.6 Million**  
in installation  
improvements & support

# CREWS CONTINUE ON TRACK AT 4825 GLENBROOK ROAD

Story by: Andrea Takash | Photos courtesy Engineering Division



The cool, crisp winter weather serves to the benefit of the three-person team working under the Engineering Control Structure at 4825 Glenbrook Road. For the last four months, crews meticulously excavated the front yard area of the property, removing retaining walls, basement foundation walls, and the walkways.

As part of the excavation process, crews removed the soil and debris from the site. As long as there is no American University Experiment Station (AUES) debris present and no MINICAMS air monitoring detections, crews load the soils and debris into roll-off containers. This process involves carefully packaging the material to meet transportation requirements and to ensure there is no risk to the public.

Before placing the soil in a roll-off container, crews line the container with a heavy duty

**The team removed retaining walls, basement foundation walls, and the walkways in the front yard area of the property.**

plastic liner bag. Then, they place the soil/debris into the container on top of the liner bag. Next, crews secure the liner bag over the top of the soil (similar to wrapping a burrito). The final step involves securing a tarp to the top of the container. This is a very thorough process that takes about one hour per container.

During the third week of November, work started under the former front porch of the home. This is near the area in the front yard where we stopped work in March 2010, due to the discovery of arsenic trichloride.

While working in this area, crews have recovered approximately 157.25 pounds of AUES-related glassware, a small amount of AUES scrap metal debris, four empty 75mm munitions debris items, an Mk IV adapter/booster, a 75mm shrapnel round (no explosives) containing a riot control agent, and a

small intact AUES-related glass bottle containing a small amount of lewisite. After thorough assessments of the items, the team determined they did not contain chemical agents and explosives.

During low probability operations in 2013, the site crew also discovered one 75mm munitions debris item and a small amount of AUES glassware.

## *Air Monitoring and Soil Sampling*

To date, all air monitoring results during high probability operations continue to show no detections for chemical agents or industrial compounds. As items and soils are removed, they are properly packaged. All items and soils are tested prior to disposal. With the exception of the intact glass bottle, all recovered AUES glassware and munition items have been non-detect for chemical agents and industrial compounds.





On Nov. 18, crews recovered an empty 75mm munitions debris item.

Until recently, the soil samples have been non-detect for chemical agents or industrial compounds. In late January, the excavated soil began to test positive for a small amount of lewisite. This soil is coming from the area around the location where crews discovered the intact glass bottle that also contained lewisite. The soil was found 6-8 feet below ground surface.

Highly-trained technicians from the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) are on site performing continuous air monitoring for several chemical agents and industrial compounds. The monitoring covers those chemicals tested at AUES in the World War I-era.

ECBC monitors for mustard, lewisite, and their respective breakdown products, as well as certain industrial chemicals, including volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, explosives, metals, cyanide, fluoride, iodine, and perchlorate.

In the beginning of high probability operations, the team was not encountering AUES related debris. So the initial soils and rubble removed from the site were placed into roll off containers.


The sampling process for the roll off containers involves collecting a composite soil sample from the soils placed into the container. The sample is thoroughly analyzed for chemical agent. This testing is completed to allow the team to properly assess the soils and make a determination on final disposal. Prior to shipment, the roll off containers are stored at the Federal Property.

Once crews started encountering AUES related glassware and debris, they began placing those items into containers for further chemical analysis. Additionally, all soils associated with AUES debris are placed into drums for further chemical analysis. This segregation is required due to the increased possibility for chemical agent in the debris and/or soils. The team also is

collecting one representative composite soil sample for every three drums of excavated soil. Each sample is thoroughly analyzed. Final disposal will be determined once there is an adequate amount of drums for a shipment. All of the drums are currently being stored at the Federal Property in the secure drum storage area.

### *Moving the Engineering Control Structure*

As crews wrap up work in the front yard, we are preparing to move the Engineering Control Structure (ECS) toward the backyard and Kreeger Music Roadway. This move is planned for spring.

Once the ECS is in place, excavation work will continue in the backyard and last approximately four months until the third and final ECS move. These moves are needed to safely conduct excavations in the areas where we are more likely to encounter AUES-related items. \*

\*All amounts associated with glassware and findings are as of Feb. 4.



Examples of broken AUES glassware found during high probability operations.

# LINCOLN-ERA HISTORY COMES BACK TO LIFE

Story and photos by Clem Gaines



Master Sgt. Antonio Giuliano, U.S. Army Band vocalist, provides a stirring a cappella rendition of the Star Spangled Banner at the Sept. 18 Old Post Chapel ribbon cutting ceremony at Fort Myer, Va.

**H**istory lives again.

How would you like stand in the very courtroom where the conspirators who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln were tried and convicted...and where some say a ghost abounds?

Or how about a visit to Fort Myer's historic Old Post Chapel where hundreds of key life-changing ceremonies happen every year and which also represents the last Army post that defended Washington, D.C., during the Civil War?

Thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, these buildings have received a breath of new life in the form of key renovations and upgrades.

## **Grant Hall**

The upgrades to Grant Hall, also known as Building 20, were as normal as a renovation to a 10,000 square foot facility can go, according to the Eli Hirsch, the Corps' project manager. But the documented stories about strange occurrences in the building are anything but normal.

Built in 1832, Building 20 – an historic, four-story structure with masonry-bearing walls and wood floors – served as an addition to a federal penitentiary to accommodate female prisoners. In 1865, however, the third floor served as the courtroom for the military trial of the accused conspirators of President Lincoln.

The \$4 million project to reconstruct the building and courtroom posed significant and unique renovation challenges. An historical survey was commissioned to ensure that no historical elements would be disturbed during the work. These constraints required the team to take extra precautions like repairing the existing mechanical system in a way that did not remove original plaster and trim. The electrical system was brought up to current standards and new restrooms were added. Life and safety upgrades included a new fire and smoke detection system, fire suppression system and a fire alarm upgrade.

“Numerous historical consultants also provided supporting documents to make sure that we attained a high degree of accuracy in the recreation of the courtroom,” Hirsch said. From its windows, you can see where the convicted conspirators, including Mary Surratt, the first woman executed by the Federal government, were hanged in July 1865.

The timing of the project provided a unique connection to a movie. Hollywood legend Robert Redford directed “The Conspirator” that was released during the renovation in April 2011. It dealt with the arrest and trial of the seven men and one woman charged in the Lincoln assassination. Army archivists



The Lincoln conspirator's courtroom features tables and chairs on loan from the movie “The Conspirator.” The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, renovated the third floor of Grant Hall on Fort McNair, in Washington, D.C.

from Fort McNair arranged for some props used in courtroom scenes to be loaned for display in the now-renovated courtroom.

During the project, the Hirsch team knew about the unexplained events in Grant Hall. They were documented in a book by Phyllis McClellan called “Silent Sentinel on the Potomac” written at the bicentennial for Fort McNair. “Many are the ghost stories told of Mrs. Surratt's footprints melting the snow between the prison and the gallows, of a window mysteriously steaming up in the room where Mary and her daughter Anne kept vigil all night before the hanging,”





The Baltimore District design team solved several key problems with an Americans with Disabilities-compliant ramp that provides easy access for both the main chapel and reception area. The ramp included benches, for personal reflection, that face Arlington Cemetery to the left.

McClellan wrote. “The Jim Droskins lived in apartment #20-5 from 1977-1980 and told of trying to get their son to sleep when the boy looked over his father’s shoulder and abruptly stopped crying. Jim had felt a hand on his shoulder, but there was no one in the room. They often felt a presence in the house.”

In more recent times, according to Kim Holien, former historian for Fort Myer and Fort McNair, a Catholic priest was living in the building. He would return to his basement apartment and find the washer and dryer turned upside down or across the room in a locked laundry room. This event, along with a number of other events, encouraged him to leave Building 20 and seek living quarters elsewhere.

Today, Grant Hall has two floors of offices used by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Given its historical interest, Fort McNair officials provide occasional tours to the third floor courtroom. The project was completed in May 2012.

### *Old Post Chapel*

On Sept. 18, 2013, another Hirsch-led team joined dignitaries at Fort Myer for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the renovated Old Post Chapel. The \$2.9 million project included upgrading the existing facility, built in 1934, as well as improvements for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

If the Grant Hall renovation had national historical significance, the Old Post Chapel project had intense and direct significance to individuals. The chapel, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery, annually hosts more than 900 funerals and memorial services. Also, many weddings and receptions are held there. Now, military personnel and visitors alike will have ceremonies in an updated building that is historic and modern, at the same time, and much more accessible.

In her opening remarks, Col. Fern Sumpter, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall commander, said the 2013 work had to be done on time since she did not want to “reschedule another wedding.”


Construction began in late January 2013 and had to be done by September. Hirsch emphasized that Baltimore District engineers developed the design in coordination with Fort Myer. Project and customer coordination included the installation department of public works, the Virginia Historical Preservation Office, The Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

A key renovation was installing a handicap accessible ramp connecting the first and second floors of the building. Also, the restrooms in the front vestibule and two in the basement were expanded and made fully accessible.

Other renovations included a new fire alarm and notification system, bringing the open stairwell enclosure up to current code, installing a new mechanical system and upgrading the electrical service to the building.

In particular, the support areas for the Army’s Old Guard ceremonial unit were greatly improved. Rather than using a porta-potty behind the chapel, the area which housed the transformer was converted to a restroom and shower facility. The area outside this room was converted to a lounge for this highly-trained team as they awaited arrival of families and friends to honor loved ones.

Now with better accessibility to the basement area, the project included an upgraded visitor’s lounge with improved comfort and better lighting where families and friends could gather. A new pantry/kitchen area was provided outside of the Visitor’s Lounge. Upstairs, the chapel and all public areas were repainted and the lighting above the chancel and altar was enhanced.

“All interior renovations were designed to maintain an historically accurate level of finish so that new work appeared to blend in with the existing building. Also, prior to building turn-over, the church organ was cleaned and tuned,” Hirsch added. The renovation was completed on time and on budget with a sweetener – in their construction efficiencies, the team found \$25,000 to replace the 25-foot front canopy destroyed by a summer windstorm. 

# BUSINESSES COME TOGETHER AT INDUSTRY DAY



Story by: Andrea Takash | Photos by: Mikell Moore



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, welcomed over 600 contractors to Nov. 5 Industry Day.

**M**ore than 600 people filled the room eager to learn about the billions of dollars worth of work expected in the North Atlantic region in the upcoming years.

Large and small businesses from across the country joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Nov. 5 for an Industry Day. Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, Maryland's 2nd District, helped kicked off the event.

"Thanks to the Army Corps for pulling this together. Networking and relationships are very important," Ruppersberger said. "The economy is alive and well. Less than two weeks ago for the first time in six years, we passed the Water Resources Development Act. It will create a lot of jobs in the area."

Industry Day served two purposes. First, it provided a platform for Baltimore District leaders to explain all of the upcoming work across the program areas and how to navigate the contracting process. Second, it gave contractors a venue to meet sub-contractors and vendors, and vice versa, during the matchmaking portion of the event.

Matchmaking allowed prime contractors to network with small businesses and vendors specializing in areas they may need on their projects. These small businesses are an important and necessary facet on every District project.

"Of our forecasted fiscal 2014 opportunities, \$200 million will be going toward small business," said District Commander Col. Trey Jordan during his opening remarks. Sharon Morrow, Headquarters Corps of Engineers Office of Small


Business, joined the District at Industry Day to highlight the variety of work available for small businesses.

"No matter the project, small businesses are a key ingredient in our ability to accomplish the important civil and military construction missions," Morrow said. "We're about offering a level playing field so that all business can offer their expertise and talent toward delivering important projects to our nation that will have enormous impacts."

Each of the program area chiefs recognized the potential adverse impacts of the current economic environment on District projects. However, they also highlighted areas that are trending in their section. For example, sustainable energy and green projects will continue to be a focus and trend in military construction.

"The Army will continue to meet the needs of the nation," Jordan said during his remarks. "We're our nation's engineers."

Attendees overwhelmingly provided positive feedback and asked for the District to continue hosting these types of events.

"As a small business specializing in military munitions response based in a HUB Zone, we found the information and technical resources available at the recent Industry Day forum to be extremely valuable," said Jenna Coven Perman, marketing manager for Ordnance Holdings, Inc. "It is great to see that the District is committed to the small business community, and we look forward to the opportunities in 2014." 



Contractors meet and discuss FY14 Baltimore District projects at the Nov. 5 Industry Day. The event informed contractors about upcoming military, civil works, environmental and Real Property Services Field Office contracting opportunities throughout fiscal 2014 as well as a brief overview of the contracting process.

# CORPS NEARS COMPLETION OF PL 84-99 REHABILITATION WORK



Story by: Ashley Roberts | Photo by: Brittany Bangert



Technicians inspect how the three 600 lb. panels are seated together on the levee wall on the Market Street Bridge in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The Sept. 28 test installation confirmed that local authorities could build the gate to complete the levee system and protect the area from a Susquehanna River high water event.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in coordination with the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority, conducted a test installation of the Wyoming Valley's post and panel system at the Market Street Bridge and the Luzerne County Court House Friday, Sept. 27, to Sunday, Sept. 29.

The trial installation marked one of the final repairs to the Wyoming Valley Levee System since the project experienced unprecedented water levels during Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011.

"This post and panel system really protects the communities throughout the Wyoming Valley System," said Project Manager Rolando Sanidad. "It was imperative that this work gets done."

The post and panel system consists of 28 I-beams and 90 aluminum panels. The I-beams are inserted into a socket located in the roadway and surrounding sidewalks, and between each I-beam three panels are inserted to form a wall. The panels sit atop foam gaskets that provide the final seal to prevent leakage. When in place, the post and panel system stands nearly 12 feet tall.

"During Tropical Storm Lee, the pressure of the water damaged many of the foam gaskets and washed them away, causing seepage," Sanidad said. "We have refabricated and replaced the foam gaskets and the test installation was conducted to ensure that the system will perform as designed if the region is impacted by another high water event. It's been a great success."

Replacement of the foam gaskets was not the only repair to the Wyoming Valley Levee System following Tropical Storm Lee. Additional work included replacement of the pump station concrete floodwall repair, installation of sheetpile, installation of pressure relief wells, repairing sand boils and sinkholes adjacent to the landside levee toe, drainage pipe repair and/or replacement and rip rap placement. The sluice gates and pump repairs were completed in early January 2014.

All work was authorized under Public Law 84-99 which gives the Corps the legal authority to conduct emergency response and provide repair work when a levee system is damaged during a flood event.

"The first thing people generally think of under PL 84-99 is our emergency response role," Emergency Management Chief Maria de la Torre said. "But it also gives the Corps the authority to supplement local efforts on making repairs to projects that are damaged during high water events."

Requirements for assistance in the rehabilitation of flood damage reduction projects includes the project maintaining an "active" status in the Corps' Rehabilitation and Inspection Program, the potentially eligible damage has been caused by a recent high water event, repairs are beyond normal operations and maintenance activities, and exceed a minimum \$15,000 construction cost.

Following Tropical Storm Lee, 14 flood risk management projects were identified to have eligible damages in need of repairs including Athens, Pa.; Danville, Pa.; Duryea, Pa.; Lebanon, Pa.; Plymouth, Pa.; Sayre, Pa.; Wyoming Valley, Pa.; Bainbridge, N.Y.; Binghamton, N.Y.; Greene, N.Y.; and Endicott/Johnson City/Vestal, N.Y. To date, repairs on all projects have been completed with the exception of Wyoming Valley and Danville, and some additional actions remain for Vestal and Sayre.

"We are currently finishing up in Wyoming Valley and the final repairs should be done by Spring 2014," Program Manager Mark Chalecki said. "Vestal is nearing completion while Danville and Sayre are on pace to be done this summer."

The authority PL 84-99 provides the Corps is vitally important to the many residents and businesses that live along the Susquehanna River Basin.

"The repair work is vitally important so that the projects can continue to function as designed and continue to protect these communities and manage risk when faced with a significant storm," Chalecki said.



# CORPS HOSTS FIRST FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WITH THE DELAWARE NATION

Story by: Ashley Roberts



The Delaware Nation logo.  
Taken from:  
[www.DelawareNation.com](http://www.DelawareNation.com)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, hosted its first ever face-to-face meeting with a federally recognized Native American tribe on Dec. 4 in downtown Baltimore.

The Corps met with the Delaware Nation, one of the country's longest standing Native American tribes, to discuss a Corps project that could potentially impact what were historically tribal

lands. Additionally, the meeting was held to foster the developing relationship between the Baltimore District and the tribe regarding the work that the Corps performs and its relation to areas of interest and significance to the Delaware Nation.

"Much of our district is Delaware Nation's ancestral homeland," Baltimore District Cultural Resource Program Manager Scott Watson said. "We want to use their expertise when we have projects that are in areas of significance to them."


The Delaware Nation, originally known as the Lenape Tribe, traces its roots back in time nearly 12,000

years. In 1778, Delaware Nation became the first Native American tribe to sign a treaty with the U.S. government and their close relationship with William Penn gave them a pivotal role in the establishment of Philadelphia.

The tribe's ancestral homeland spanned from Virginia to Massachusetts before they were forced westward as a result of settlers and government control. Now based in Oklahoma, the Delaware Nation strives to preserve and expand their culture, language and religion through economic development and education.

The relationship between the Corps and Delaware Nation, while new, is incredibly important. Through their historical expertise in the district's area of responsibility, it is imperative that the Corps works with the tribe to ensure lands of significance are considered as we implement our mission.

"Native American groups attach significance to parts of the country and parts within our district that we may not be aware of," Watson said. "As a result, it's important we work regularly with them so that we can identify those areas and take into account the effects of our projects on land that has significance to their culture."

For more information on the Delaware Nation visit [www.delawarenation.com](http://www.delawarenation.com). 

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DELAWARE NATION...

"The Delaware people have a long and ancient history. They are the descendents of the Lenape people originally located in New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. They refer to themselves as the Lenni-Lenape. Their language belongs to the Eastern branch of Algonquian languages and is closely related to east coast languages such as Powhatan, Mohican, and Massachusetts.

Traditional history of the Lenape people was recorded on notch sticks called the Walum-Olum. It dictates that by the time of European contact, they were in the Eastern United States, which is a probable explanation as to why other tribes called them the 'Grandfathers.' "

-Taken from the Delaware Nation website  
[www.DelawareNation.com](http://www.DelawareNation.com)

# SMALL COMMUNITIES FEEL BENEFIT OF CORPS' CAP PROGRAM

By: Ashley Roberts



Completed rehabilitation work under PL 84-99 in Bainbridge, N.Y. The construction project was in response to severe flooding from Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011. (Courtesy photo)

Each year, regions across the country face the negative impacts of strong storms and subsequent flooding. There are success stories of flood walls holding back the rising waters, or levee systems protecting a neighborhood from severe flooding. But with each successful flood risk management project, there are towns that are devastated by rising flood waters because they lack the Congressional authorization to build a federal project necessary to protect their community.

However, the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP), Section 205, is giving many communities throughout the Baltimore District hope that a small-scale flood risk management project is a possibility.

“Under the Continuing Authorities Program, the Corps can provide small-scale flood risk management projects without Congressional authorization,” said CAP Project Manager Tony Clark. “And we are beginning to see a number of communities from Windsor Borough, Pa., to West Pittston, Pa., take advantage of the opportunities CAP 205 provides.”

Specifically, Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended, gives the Corps authority to develop and construct small-scale flood risk management


projects totaling \$7 million or less. Projects being developed under this authority are often referred to as CAP 205 projects.

CAP 205 projects take a variety of shapes from flood walls and levees to flood warning systems, but all help communities better prepare for rising waters.

“Federal flood risk management projects are designed to manage major flooding risks by structural alternatives, nonstructural alternatives, or a combination of both,” said Clark. “CAP 205 projects focus mostly on local projects which could include structural solutions such as channel enlargement, realignment, or paving; obstruction removal; levee and wall construction; bank stabilization; and/or non-structural solutions such as a flood warning system.”

To begin a CAP 205 project, a town, or any non-Federal entity, must first formally request the Corps to initiate a preliminary assessment. The preliminary assessment is 100 percent federally funded – up to \$100,000. Upon completion of the preliminary assessment (which typically takes six months), the Corps determines whether there is Federal interest in the study area. If so, then the Corps moves forward with a feasibility study and development of the project, a process that can take anywhere from two to five years. Once a project is ready for construction, the project is cost shared between the Corps and the non-Federal sponsor, with the sponsor contributing at least 35 percent of the total project costs.

Four communities have sent in Letters of Request for new start CAP 205 studies in the last two years. Currently the Baltimore District is waiting on funding to initiate those new starts.

“The primary goal of this program is to reduce risk from flooding in smaller communities,” Clark said. “Whether it’s structural or non structural measures, the Corps can help communities identify ways to better prepare and plan for future storm events.” 

# VETERANS CURATION PROGRAM HOSTS OPEN HOUSE AT ALEXANDRIA LABORATORY

Story by: Ashley Roberts



Lab Technician Jake Petrie (left) examines an artifact with Laboratory Manager Jasmine Heckman. (Courtesy Photo)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, and John Milner Associates, Inc., hosted an open house at the Veterans Curation Program's (VCP) in Alexandria, Va., laboratory Aug. 20.

"The open house allows for community members and businesses to come learn more about the work we do here," said VCP Project Manager Kate McMahan. "It also provides networking opportunities for the veterans to meet local business leaders who want to hire more veterans."

The VCP provides vocational rehabilitation and innovative training for recently separated veterans using archaeological collections administered by the Corps. Veterans in the program are trained in data entry, report writing, photography and scanning technologies. These efforts support the Corps' mission of archiving, documenting and recording important archeological materials. As a result, veterans are able to learn important technical skills that can be transferred to potential permanent jobs with government and private employers.

"Through the program, we are able to provide veterans with an opportunity to receive competitive pay while learning new job skills through technical training," said McMahan. "The overall goal is to help ease that transition from military to civilian life."

Baltimore District Commander Col. Trey Jordan, who oversees the area of responsibility the Alexandria laboratory is located in, attended the event and spoke with the current group of veterans working at the lab.

"Supporting our veterans is a critical Army mission," said Jordan. "Providing an opportunity for these individuals to advance their technical skills is not only going to be valuable to them, but to our nation as well, as they set out and begin this next phase of their careers."

Since October 2009, this program has employed 124 veterans and five active duty volunteers. Graduates of the program have been hired by federal agencies and private sector companies, gone on to continue their education, and started their own small businesses.

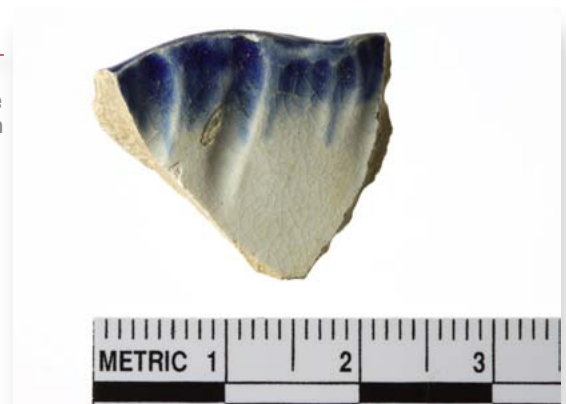
Since its opening in 2010, the Alexandria lab has employed 27 veterans, most of which have left the program and found positions elsewhere in the area. Currently, the Alexandria laboratory employs six U.S. Army, Air Force, and Marine veterans.

The Alexandria laboratory is one of three VCP labs funded and operated by USACE's St. Louis District. Other similar laboratories are located in Augusta, Ga., and St. Louis, Mo.

For more information about the Veterans Curation Program, please visit their website at:

<http://www.veteranscurationprogram.org/>

A sample artifact catalogued by the Veterans Curation Program (Courtesy Photo)



# DISTRICT AIDS FORT DETRICK IN FOREST GLEN ANNEX PROJECT

Story and photo by Clem Gaines



Col. Steven Middlecamp, Fort Detrick installation commander, listens as a Forest Glen Restoration Advisory Board member comments at the Nov. 21 meeting held at the Coffield Community Center in Silver Spring, Md. Fort Detrick and Corps of Engineers officials listened to community comments on a proposed interim solution to protecting human health along the Ireland trail that is behind Forest Glen Annex.

**E**nvironmental safety, community access and leadership decisions were key discussion points at the Nov. 21 Forest Glen Annex Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting.

The Annex, located in Silver Spring, Md., is part of Fort Detrick. Col. Steven Middlecamp, the garrison commander, met with more than 50 people to hear their input and concerns over Corps recommendations to restrict walking access on the Ireland Trail, a popular walking area along the edge of the Annex. Engineering Division experts Russ Marsh and Dr. Charles Lechner led a team in preparing an engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA).

At the Sept. 5 RAB, Corps, Forest Glen and Fort Detrick officials presented the EE/CA summary. RABs are a forum for exchange of information and partnership among citizens, the installation, and other groups. Most importantly, they offer an opportunity for communities to provide input to the cleanup process.

The recommended action is to place an 8' fence next to the trail that would keep 60 percent of the trail open but cut off access to a popular part of the trail traversing a valley area. This action would protect the public from known medical waste and environmental contamination

next to the Ireland Trail. This is an historic trail, adjoining the northeastern section of Rock Creek Park, which has been used for decades as a gentle walking area behind the Forest Glen Annex. It is actually on Army property.

However, the RAB members asked to delay the decision and the required public notice and to schedule another meeting with the Fort Detrick officials. In the interim, RAB members reviewed the EE/CA to prepare individual comments for Col. Middlecamp to consider.

Public safety for people and pets on the Ireland Trail is a key part of the EE/CA. Research has shown that part of the Annex was used by the former Walter Reed hospital for many years as a medical waste dump. Debris, including syringes and other medical items, has been found near the trail, which borders and comes onto the Annex in a heavily wooded area.

At the November meeting, seven RAB members spoke, as well as several members of the audience. The majority agreed that they only wanted warning signs along the trail and to leave the valley walking area open. They were not supportive of a fence and felt that the Army had not done any kind of environmental contamination study even though medical waste has been easily found and the stream in the valley is clearly polluted.

The RAB asked Col Middlecamp to develop another recommendation that assessed the public value/public access of the trail. A Fort Detrick environmental official noted to the audience that this criterion is not identified as a component when compiling an EE/CA, but it is not prohibited either.

Later this spring, Fort Detrick officials will select a recommended action for review and public comment. 



## PL 84-99 PHOTOS

**Top:** Looking north from the Market Street Bridge, the Susquehanna River flooded this entire area to a record-setting 42.66 feet during Tropical Storm Lee. (Photo by Brittany Bangert)

**Bottom-left:** Technicians inspect how the three 600-pound panels are seated together on the levee wall on the Market Street Bridge in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The Sept. 28 test installation confirmed that local authorities could build the gate to complete the levee system and protect the area from a Susquehanna River high water event. (Photo by Brittany Bangert)

**Bottom-center:** Reporter John O'Connell (left), *The Times Leader* newspaper, interviews Chris Bellman, Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority executive director, and Rolando Sanidad, Baltimore District project manager, on the Market Street Bridge post and panel project. (Photo by Clem Gaines)

**Bottom-right:** When installed, sections of the closure structure on the Market Street Bridge will complete the Wyoming Valley levee and protect people and property in the area. (Photo by Clem Gaines)