



CONSTELLATION

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Keeping it Clean

Michael Moten, Washington Aqueduct laborer/motor vehicle operator, ensures the safety of a coworker as he descends into one of four sedimentation basins at the aqueduct's Dalecarlia plant Jan. 20. In these basins, chemically treated river solids settle out by gravity in an early stage of the water treatment process. The collected solids are cleaned out four times per year by draining the basins, one at a time, and flushing the solids back to the Potomac River. Once the new residuals management project is complete in early 2011, solids will no longer be disposed of back to the river, but rather collected, dewatered and trucked off for disposal.

(Photo by Tina Carlsen, Public Affairs)

Construction leaders engage in annual conference

By **Katisha Draughn**
Public Affairs Office

Nestled in the mountains more than 120 miles from the City Crescent Building sat more than 70 Baltimore District employees with one thing on their minds – construction.

Employees from the Construction Division, including those from field offices and area offices, attended Baltimore District's annual Construction Leaders Conference at the Rocky Gap Resort in Flintstone, Md., Jan. 20-22.

John Lonnquest, a historian with the Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters Office, kicked off the con-

ference with a presentation on the history of the Corps of Engineers.

Various presentations were incorporated into the conference such as the resident management system by John Stevens and Denis duBreuil; the levee safety program by Tony Vidal; the supervisory development program by Dave Hand; construction initiative by Shawn McKee; and a panel discussion by Lt. Col. Ty Weaver, Cathey Robertson and Jennifer Augustine, on contracting and construction process improvement.

Resident engineers from the Bay Area Office, Fort Detrick Integrated Program Office, Harrisburg Area Office, Fort Belvoir, District of Columbia Integrated Program Office,

the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and Aberdeen Proving Ground gave presentations on the status of their respective projects.

Dawn Conniff, deputy area engineer at the Harrisburg Area Office, was pleased with this year's conference.

"Making the commitment to this type of conference to cross-talk, share ideas, discuss lessons learned and different techniques, as well as to bring in outside speakers can only help make us a better organization," she said. "Having a mix of construction topics with other areas of interest helped broaden the experience."

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Commander's Comment

Meeting our obligations ...

By Col. Dave Anderson
District Engineer

According to the book "Good to Great" by Jim Collins, one of the traits of a "Great" organization is one that "delivers superior performance every time." The Corps of Engineers delivers superior performance by demonstrating one simple trait – RELIABILITY. To me, reliability is a matter of meeting the obligations we make to our customers and to each other.

When a Baltimore District employee makes a commitment, we have to work as a team to meet that obligation – on time, when we say we are going to do it, and to the agreed-upon level of quality. We also have to stay in very close communication with our customers in order to manage their expectations and to give them a voice in our processes.

The first aspect of being a reliable organization is doing what we say we are going to do, both externally and internally. If we commit to do something, as a District, as a project delivery team, or as individuals, then we must meet our commitments. Our customers are relying on us. I've been around enough to know that this ain't easy. Regardless of whether we're meeting a project milestone, completing a design review, negotiating a contract modification, or returning a customer's

call – we're relied upon, and considered reliable, only if we are men and women of our word. Regardless of the challenges, we have to work as a team to do what we say we are going to do.

The second aspect to being reliable is meeting our schedules – to do what we said we were going to do when we said we were going to do it. Whether we are meeting a beneficial occupancy date, providing timely feedback to a stakeholder or customer, or responding

to an email from a colleague, we have to be timely. Our individual actions are a reflection of the entire organization. If we fail to meet the schedule that our customers are expecting, then our customers will question our ability to deliver. We

can't get to "Great" if we can't deliver on time, and we all own a piece on ensuring success in this regard.

Finally, we will only be considered "reliable" if we deliver a quality product. Whether it is providing clean municipal water at the expected price, delivering military construction projects at the expected level of quality, a contract solicitation free of contradictory information, or a design review that hits all of our concerns – we have to deliver that which our customers are expecting.

By ensuring we're doing what we say we're going to do, meeting our schedules and delivering quality projects, we will continue on the road to being a "Great" organization.

"When a Baltimore District employee makes a commitment, we have to work as a team to meet that obligation."



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

CONSTELLATION

District Engineer: Col. Dave Anderson

Public Affairs Chief: Clemens Gaines

Editor: Tina Carlsen

Contributors: Joyce Conant, Katisha Draughn, Fred Furney and David Ruderman

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Baltimore native is new deputy DE for support ops

By Fred Furney
Public Affairs Office

Capt. Joshua Thaniel, a Baltimore native, recently assumed the role of deputy district engineer for support operations for the District.

His military career has spanned more than 21 years. With 17 years of active duty time, he is a veteran infantryman with duty and assignments in six continents and 40 countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has served in the U.S. Marine Corps Special Ops Capable, Maryland Army National Guard, regular Army and Army Active Guard/Reserve.

Some of his past leadership assignments have included Security Forces Observer Controller Trainer platoon leader, and he was a unit commander on two separate occasions.

Captain Thaniel served in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Provide Comfort, Operation Shining Presence and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I'm positive that his experience with organizations, Soldiers, and civilians makes him the best Soldier at the right time to jump feet first into the pace of the District," said Lt. Col. John Osborn, deputy district commander.

"Growing up in the city presented its normal challenges," said Captain Thaniel, who grew up on Baltimore's east side.

Rather than taking to the streets, Captain Thaniel put his efforts into football and baseball. To this day, he maintains a rabid passion for baseball to the point of naming his



(Photo by Fred Furney, Public Affairs)

Capt. Joshua Thaniel, deputy district engineer for support operations for the District, brings more than 21 years of service to his new position.

son after a former Negro League great.

Captain Thaniel attended high school at Saint Frances Academy in Baltimore, graduating in 1988.

While attending, he participated in dance and drama. During his senior year, he was the lead in a production called Kumbaya written by Father J. Glenn Murray, a Jesuit Priest at the school.

In addition to attending the academy, Captain Thaniel was also a teacher at the school from 1994-1997.

During his time teaching, he approached the administration about creating a baseball team. A signed baseball from the school's first victory remains on display in their trophy case.

Sister John Francis, president of Saint Frances Academy and his former English teacher, said, "Josh

was responsible for setting up our Boys to Men program, which is a right of passage program for our young men that is still in existence today."

One of Captain Thaniel's former students and Boys to Men participants, Brian Boles, coached the Saint Frances Academy baseball team to the Maryland Interscholastic Athletics Association C Conference title this past year.

He sits on a committee at the Maryland Historical Society, which is raising funds to restore the original flag of the 4th United States Colored Troops (1864) from the American Civil War.

"I was given a strong sense of family from my parents," he said. "My wife and I believe it is important to support our children by being involved and supportive of their endeavors."

Construction completed on Lidy Creek project

By Fred Furney
Public Affairs Office

Construction was completed on the Lidy Creek, Pa., Section 14 Emergency Stream Bank Stabilization project in January.

The two-month project was undertaken to stabilize approximately 220 linear feet of stream bank along Lidy Creek, which as a result of erosion was threatening Center Street and two sanitary sewer lines.

Dupont Borough in Luzerne County, Pa., was the non-Federal sponsor on the project.

"It feels really good to complete this project, especially since this is a small community and they would not have the money to study and construct a project like this on their own," said Tony Clark, project manager.

"I think they are very happy that the government was able to help them out."

An Environmental Assessment and Planning Design Analysis completed in January 2009 presented four alternatives to alleviate the problem, including a no-action alternative.

Without the construction project, the sewer line could have become compromised and disrupted service to approximately 400 to 500 residen-



(Courtesy photos)

Lidy Creek stream bank stabilization shown before and after (inset) the project.

tial and commercial properties. The stream would have also become polluted with untreated sewage.

Continued erosion could also have compromised the integrity of Center Street and caused it to become impassable. This would have inconvenienced approximately 28 residential and businesses properties along Center Street and had negative economic impacts on local businesses.

In addition to reducing erosion of the stream bank, the project should result in decreased sediment loads entering the waterway, as well as

improved stream habitat.

As part of construction operations, large native rocks were located in the active channel and were removed and placed to create more stable stream conditions.

Construction involved the placement of riprap and native stone along the eroded banks downstream of the Main Street culvert.

"With the recent heavy rains, the project has had a positive effect in reducing flood damages to Center Street," said Dan Knick, Council President for Dupont Borough.

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A key highlight of the conference was the retirement reception for John Chubb, former chief of the Construction Division. Jim Jones, Marie Burns and James Rich were a few of the division chiefs who presented Mr. Chubb with gifts and amusing anecdotes about his time while at the District. He also received a standing ovation from the audience when Col. Dave Anderson, District Engineer, presented him with the de Fleury

Medal, which honors individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army Engineering.

"I hope everyone who attended left with a sense of accomplishment in our successes, and most importantly a real sense of our purpose, which is to provide excellent construction management service to the soldiers and citizens of our country," said Jeff Werner, the new District chief of construction. "We're part of a great organization that is privileged to be able to contribute our expertise to the Army and the Nation."

DDSP dedicates 21st century fitness center

By David Ruderman
Public Affairs Office

It may be the heart of winter, but folks are working up a sweat at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.

The Baltimore District finished constructing an ultramodern, 26,000-sq. ft. physical fitness center at the sprawling logistics and support installation just west of Harrisburg, Pa., late last year.

By the time more than 200 community members assembled for a ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 15, the gym was already swarmed with patrons.

"This new facility has been long overdue, greatly expected and fortunately is not a temporary structure," said Navy Capt. John G. King, DDSP commander.

The impetus for the \$5.9 million, design-bid-build project began with an act of nature. Heavy snows in February 2003 caved in

the roof of the community's World War II-era gymnasium, making it unusable and negatively impacting quality of life at DDSP.

"The Corps effort in this project reflects both its mandates to support the armed forces, and to intervene in damage reduction and repair missions," said Col. Dave Anderson, District Engineer.

The new facility comprises a gymnasium and racquetball court; exercise, weight and locker rooms; showers and saunas; and administrative areas. The prime contractor was eciConstruction, LLC of Dillsburg, Pa.; architect and engineer services were provided by Summer Consultants of McLean, Va.; and the construction contract was awarded July 3, 2008.

Demolition of the former gymnasium was planned for January and February; landscaping of the present fitness center will be

completed in the spring.

After the dedication ceremony, Colonel Anderson and the Baltimore District team toured the facility, where patrons went about using newly installed equipment from the old gym.

"Working out keeps you in shape, keeps you young," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher L. Olvera, logistics chief with Recruiting Station Harrisburg, as he pushed himself through a series of push-ups in an exercise room.

"It helps me keeping up with the younger guys," he said.

The number of patron visits was expected to double that of the old facility, said Shane A. March, lead recreation specialist.

"The condition of these facilities affects the effectiveness of Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness programs," said Captain King.

"We can be absolutely proud of this fitness center. I know I am," he said.



Team effort

Members of the Adjudication Collocation Activities Facility project team pose with the signed steel beam to be used for the topping out of the facility at Fort Meade. The 151,590-square-foot, design bid-build project will allow the collocation of diverse Department of Defense and military department adjudication operations under one roof. The final beam was put in place Jan. 25. The facility is scheduled to be complete in March 2011.



(Photos by Fred Furney, Public Affairs)

Celebrate Black History Month in February

By Michael Barfield
Equal Employment Opportunity Office

February is Black History Month. The idea of celebrating black history originated in the beginning of the 20th century when Carter G. Wilson, an educator, began a campaign in several schools, journals and black publications calling for a Negro History Week to be celebrated.

Mr. Wilson felt it would honor the importance of black achievement and contributions to the United States.

In 1926, during the second week of February, Mr. Wilson was able to institute the observance because President Abraham Lincoln's and Frederick Douglass'

birthday occurred then.

It should to be noted that Mr. Douglass served as an adviser to President Lincoln during the Civil War and fought for the adoption of constitutional amendments that guaranteed voting rights and other civil liberties for African Americans.

"History has shown us the struggle African Americans faced from the slave trades and forced labor, to the Jim Crow Laws."

For his endeavors, Mr. Wilson was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1976, Negro History Week turned into Black History Month.

This year's theme is, "The History of Black Empowerment."

History has shown us the struggle African Americans faced from the slave trades and forced labor, to the Jim Crow Laws.

Discrimination had been used to keep African Americans marginalized by separating them in rail cars and restaurants as well as schools and opportunities for higher education. And even though prominent people such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President Lyndon B. Johnson championed the civil rights movement, racism and discrimination still exists today.

The unemployment rate for African Americans increased to 16.2 percent in December 2009, its highest rate since July 1984, according to the monthly employment situation report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics,

Since the recession began in December 2007, the number of unemployed African Americans has grown to nearly 1.1 million.

Black History Month is important to recognize a crisis that has grown within the black community and to look for ways in which people in positions of influence can recognize the cultural diversity as well as the youthful exuberance and knowledge individuals can bring to the workplace.

Everyone deserves an opportunity to excel, regardless of race or skin color.



(Photo by Tina Carlsen, Public Affairs)

Gift of Life

Red Cross Worker Ilisha Davis monitors Maria Teresi, regulatory branch in Operations Division, as she donates blood at the Army Corps of Engineers blood drive Jan. 15. Blood drives are held quarterly.

Jennings Randolph Lake hosts controlled hunt

Story courtesy Jennings Randolph Lake staff

The fourth annual physically challenged hunt at Jennings Randolph Lake, located in Garrett County, Md., and Mineral County, W.Va., was held Dec. 7-8 to help control the large population of whitetail deer.

Millions of acres are controlled and administered by the Army Corps of Engineers throughout the United States. "One of the most important missions is managing natural resources, which cover an array of activities from forestry to wildlife management," said Bill Donnellan, supervisory ranger at the lake.

Certain wildlife populations can quickly increase when lands are designated no-hunting areas and the region has few natural predators. When situations like this occur, wildlife populations can exceed the capacity of the land. The result is disease and starvation among wildlife populations.

One of the most effective methods of thinning overpopulated wildlife is controlled hunting. Over the years, the natural area's resident deer herd grew until the herd exceeded the land's ability to provide enough food for them, Mr. Donnellan said.

Browse lines, the boundaries visible when deer strip vegetation and leaves as far up as they can reach, could be readily seen throughout the area and were within the Robert W. Craig Campground at the lake.

After considering several options, the staff decided a controlled hunt offered to physically challenged individuals would be the best answer.

The lake staff established a project delivery team to recruit sponsors and outside expertise in setting up the hunt.

Combining their efforts for the venture was the Army Corps of Engineers, Elk District Volunteer Fire Company, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section and the West Virginia Hunter Education Association. The Elk District Volunteer Fire Department served as the primary sponsor of the event.

The group started with an idea but no funding, equipment, volunteers or hunters. The event has expanded to include seven hunters this year, more than 30 volunteers, donations and equipment from local



(Photo by Bill Donnellan, Public Affairs)

John Chadderton (right), harvested a deer during the annual physically challenged hunt at Jennings Randolph Lake, with the help of Jim Dawson, hunter safety instructor.

merchants valued at more than \$4,000.

Donations were gathered throughout the year from small jars left in local Mom and Pop stores to corporate sponsors such as Wal-Mart.

After a selection panel met, seven individuals were selected and notified based upon applications received at the project. The hunters participating this year were James Derryberry, James Main, Lysle Sites Sr, Ryan Willis, John Chadderton, Lenny Barnhouse and Brandon Nutter.

The hunters were allowed the opportunity to harvest antlerless deer in a specified controlled hunting area, Mr. Donnellan said.

The ranger staff established shooting zones and ground blinds for safety of the participants.

The staff recruited a group of volunteers to assist the hunters with getting in and out of the woods, processing the game harvested and feeding all the hunters and volunteers.

The group met several months in advance of the hunt to discuss and set the agenda, develop a menu and plans to feed the hunters and volunteers over the course of the two-day event. Two weeks prior to the event, the ranger staff set up eight hunting blinds, a five-by-five enclosed tent-like shelter, complete with a heater and chairs.

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Security measures help keep employees safe

By Joyce Conant
Public Affairs Office

Security may not be on the forefront of everyone's minds, but according to Tony Santiago-Rios, Baltimore District's security officer, it should be.

"We live in a different world now, and we must be security-conscious," he said.

Mr. Santiago-Rios provided a number of things you should think about to protect yourself and your personal identification.

- When employees leave their work areas to go home for the day, they shouldn't leave anything lying out - remember most of us work in unsecured areas.

That means don't leave money, personal digital assistants, bus or train vouchers, cameras, cell phones or anything else valuable unattended. If you have a desk that has a lock - be sure to use it.

- Do not place items in trashcans that contain addresses, social security numbers or any other personal information printed on it. Be sure to shred those items - it is for your protection and helps prevent identification theft.

- When leaving your computer, and especially when exiting the building, be sure to remove your common access card, or CAC, from the computer.

Not only is this a security violation, but it also gives you access back into the building. Security guards will deny access to



(Photo by Fred Furney, Public Affairs)

Anastasiya Kononova, an office automation clerk from Planning Division, shreds a document. For your protection and to help prevent identification theft, shred items that contain addresses, social security numbers or other personal information.

the building to people without proper identification. You will be required to call someone from your office to bring you your CAC if you left it in your work area.

- When you leave work, keep your CAC out of sight. Don't wear it on the bus, grocery store or anywhere else outside of the building. It makes you an easy mark if someone is targeting government employees. It's better to be safe than sorry.

- Do not talk about sensitive information on the telephone. Your phone calls can be easily monitored at any time.

- Be sure to report all suspicious packages and people, including people taking pictures of

the City Crescent Building to the security office at 410-962-4111 or 410-962-4112 or to the building guards at 410-962-1728.

By keeping these security guidelines in the forefront of everyone's minds, Baltimore District employees will create a more safe and secure place to work in, Mr. Santiago-Rios said.

Report suspicious activities and people.

Call the security office at 410-962-4111/4112 or the building guards at 410-962-1728.

Desk war zone: We're all responsible for housekeeping

By John Houvener

Safety and Occupational Health Office

Information is thrown at you every day. New mail, reports, invoices, proposals and more hit your desk several times a day. You are busy, so it begins to pile up. You have multiple stacks of paper on your desk, not to mention the stuff hidden under your desk, unorganized piles of books on your shelves and your cube walls are haplessly decorated with various items. Your desktop begins to look like a war zone.

Don't let it happen. Jobsite and workstation housekeeping is part of your job no matter what type of work you do.

Keeping your work area clean and tidy helps avoid jobsite accidents including falls, fires, cuts and other exposures.

Follow these tips for safe jobsite housekeeping:

- Keep all materials and equipment in their proper storage places when they are not in use.
- Do not keep tools and equipment around if you do not need them. Return unnecessary tools to the tool crib and materials to central storage areas.
- Store tools safely to prevent injury. Blades should be covered. Do not leave tools where they could fall off a bench, out of a cabinet, or out of your vehicle when you open the door or tailgate.
- Keep traffic areas such as aisles and walkways clear and free of item such as stored boxes, trash and storage bins.
- Make sure entryways and traffic lanes are dry and free of ice and water.
- Do not allow obstacles such as cables and hoses to cross traffic areas. These create unnecessary tripping hazards. If you have no other choice, secure and cover them.
- Keep emergency equipment in good condition and free of obstacles. Do not allow anything to block access to emergency exits, fire extinguishers, fire hoses, fire sprinklers, safety showers, eyewashes or first aid equipment.
- Maintain electrical equipment. Keep cords untangled and away from heat and moisture.
- Whenever possible, have permanent wiring installed instead of using extension cords.



- Close drawers and cabinet doors promptly. Many serious accidents have occurred when someone tripped over an open drawer or slammed into an open cabinet door.
 - Clean up spills immediately. Don't leave it behind for someone to slip on.
 - Keep chemicals in properly labeled containers and keep them closed when not in use. Keep only the amount of chemical you require for that day's tasks in your work area.
 - Keep trash and scrap cleaned up and thrown away and empty containers frequently.
 - Repair or report any hazards such as loose tile or carpeting, loose stairs and holes in the floor.
 - Keep windows and light fixtures clean to improve lighting. Replace burned out light fixtures promptly.
 - Watch for surfaces with splinters and have them sanded down.
 - Never store heavy objects out of sight in an overhead location.
 - Eat and drink in the lunch area -- not your desk
 - Smoke only in designated areas.
 - Keep emergency numbers posted at each telephone. The street address and telephone number of your work location should also be posted at each phone to assist anyone who might be calling for emergency help.
- The old saying about "a place for everything and everything in its place" sums up jobsite and workstation housekeeping!