



CONSTELLATION

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Spring Valley munitions destruction complete

By Joyce Conant
Public Affairs Office

It's not every day the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers destroys World War I chemical munitions in the nation's capital. In fact, it's only the second time Baltimore District has used the Army's Explosive Destruction System, or EDS, to safely destroy munitions recovered from the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site, located in northwest Washington, D.C.

The first was in 2003; the second started last month.

The EDS was designed by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency to provide on-site treatment of chemical munitions in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Approved for use in the field by the Army and the Department of Defense, the EDS has been used at many locations across the country since 1999 to safely destroy more than 1,700 items.

After careful planning, the preparation of an engineering evaluation and cost analysis, and extensive public outreach, five chemical munitions and 20 conventional or non-agent filled munitions were destroyed using the EDS on federal property located within the Spring Valley formerly used defense site.

The most recent munitions were recovered by specially trained explosive safety ordnance technicians in 2007 and 2008 from the area known as Pit 3 in the 4800 block of Glenbrook Road, N.W. Once recovered, the munitions were placed in



(Photo by F.T. Eyre)

Prior to touring the Explosive Destruction System on April 5, District of Columbia Councilmember Mary Cheh (left) speaks with Col. Dave Anderson, Baltimore District Engineer, and relays Spring Valley citizens' safety concerns about the EDS. Also listening is Annie Howell with Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, and Keith Anderson, acting director, District Department of the Environment.

multiple round containers, or MRCs, which are sealed metal cylinders that have been tested and approved to safely store and transport munitions. Once removed from the neighborhood, the MRCs were stored on federal property under constant security until destruction operations began April 16. Operations were completed May 5.

"We safely removed these munitions from the neighborhood, and now they have been safely destroyed," said Todd Beckwith, USACE project manager.

"As we do with all of our projects, we worked closely on the munitions destruction with our

regulatory partners at the Environmental Protective Agency and the District Department of the Environment, and we ensured the public had an opportunity to provide input during our planning process."

All munitions handling operations followed safety plans that were extensively coordinated with regulators and were performed by a team of experienced, trained Army civilian employees. The EDS uses cutting charges to explosively access chemical-filled munitions, eliminating their explosive capacity before the chemical agent is neutralized. The system's main compo-

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Commander's Comment

Work and personal life: An important balance

By Col. Dave Anderson
District Engineer

Spring weather has arrived, and summer is just around the corner. The time is *now* to get a plan in place, use your annual leave and recharge your batteries.

I recently took a week off during my younger two kids' (and wife's) spring break and visited friends in Rhode Island and our oldest daughter at West Point. It was an invaluable time to reflect on work, focus on my family, and to relax. I came back with a reinvigorated sense of mission and made some lifetime memories with family and friends.

The week reminded me of the importance of balancing the demands of work and our personal lives. The operative word is balance: if you work too hard for too long, you'll be at risk of burning out. At the same time, when you face challenges in your personal life, concentrating on your job can be difficult. Whether the problem is too much focus on work or too little, when your work life and your personal life feel out of balance, stress – along with its harmful effects – is the result.

Our mission is incredibly important, and our customers are counting on us to "get 'er done." The work required to do so can be doggone demanding, frustrating and will wear us down if we don't take a break. While we need every person on the team pulling hard together to succeed, we need YOU to be with us when the mis-

sion ends. Plan accordingly so you remain an effective member of the team all the way to the finish line!

As you make your plans, consider the beauty and opportunities that the Army Corps of Engineers lakes and recreation areas offer. The Corps provides more than 30 percent of the recreational opportunities on federal lands. The Corps is the largest provider of water-based recreation in the nation with more than 25 million visitors each year.

Within a few hours driving time, you can visit one of the Baltimore District recreation sites.

Raystown Lake, located in Pennsylvania, is a 29,000 acre project with 12 public access areas, a 8,000 acre lake, picnic areas, beaches, boat launches, campgrounds, hiking trails, a world-class, 30-mile mountain bike trail hunting, fishing and marina concession stands.

Tioga-Hammond Lakes in north-central Pennsylvania is surrounded by lush forested ridges. Boating, fishing, hunting, water-skiing, camping, picnicking, and nature walks are just some of the recreational opportunities available.

See page 7 for some opportunities at Jennings Randolph Lake in West Virginia.

And remember, in everything that you do at work and at home, be safe!



Raystown Lake, Pa.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

CONSTELLATION

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Officials unveil Anacostia Restoration Plan

By Katisha Draughn
Public Affairs Office

Politicians, federal, state and local officials and members of the environmental community gathered together to reveal the \$1.7 billion Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan, or ARP, held at Bladensburg Waterfront Park on April 19.

Baltimore District is the lead agency for the preparation of the ARP and has been partnering with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Department of Natural Resources to restore the “forgotten river.”

The Anacostia River flows from Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, Md., through Washington, D.C., to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

The plan was initiated in 2007 and includes more than 3,000 projects that could tackle Anacostia River’s pollution. Goals of the plan are to dramatically reduce pollutant loads; protect and restore ecological integrity; improve fish passage; increase wetland acreage; expand forest cover; and increase public and private participation.

The primary objective for the ARP is to present a 10-year restoration plan that systematically identifies and prioritizes restoration opportunities, as well as to help Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership achieve its 2020 indicators and six restoration goals.

“The ARP is a planning tool that



(Photo by Katisha Draughn)

Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley speaks at the plan’s unveiling event April 19.

is intended to direct future restoration efforts for not only federal, state and local governments, but also for concerned citizens, watershed groups and non-profits,” said Dave Robbins, study manager on the ARP.

The plan was completed in a collaborative manner and has secured buy-in from all the stakeholders.

“That’s a great start for implementation,” said Mary Dan, project manager for the ARP. “Similarly the implementation phase will also require significant collaboration so the event was important to visibly demonstrate the relationships that have

formed to complete the ARP and to move it forward.”

Various engaged citizens, organized by subwatersheds, participated in the development of the ARP.

“This provided a unique perspective into the identification of problems, needs, and opportunities from those living in the watershed,” said Robbins. “The ARP project delivery team encouraged the participation of watershed group volunteers to review components of the ARP, and received insightful comments and valuable feedback as a result.”

Various political and federal officials gave their thoughts on the plan and restoring the river at the unveiling event.

“Rain carries pollution and trash, and the quality of the Anacostia River has been degraded because of that,” said Jo-Ellen Darcy, assistant



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District marks Earth Day with local events

By Fred Furney
Public Affairs Office

District employees marked the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day at Fort Meade and Fort Detrick April 22, providing demonstrations to the public on how the Corps uses science in its role as environmental stewards.

Sharon Madden and Erica Shriver, from Planning Division, Wayne Chmielewski, an Army intern, and EA Engineering, a contractor, provided a demonstration of electrofish shocking at Fort Meade.

Electrofishing is a method used to collect samples of fish populations for habitat assessments, water quality analysis, and stream assessments. The fish are temporarily stunned using electricity, then collected, identified, weighed and measured before they are replaced to where they were collected, by which time they return to their natural state.

Electrofishing was being used in 2008 and 2009 to determine the health of the Midway Branch and Franklin Branch, two streams which flow through Fort Meade, when Fort Meade's Environmental Division approached the Corps about providing a demonstration at their Earth Day event in 2009. The demonstration was so well received that the District was asked to return this year.

Mark Mendelsohn, a biologist from Planning Divi-



(Photo by Wayne Chmielewski)

Erica Shriver (left) and Sharon Madden (right) answer questions from children observing fish tanks filled with species captured at Fort Meade's Burba Lake.

sion, provided participants of the Fort Detrick event with a display on the District's Poplar Island Project. Included in his presentation were four Diamond-back Terrapins, inhabitants of the island.

"The excitement you see in children's faces when they learn something new about the environment makes me feel good," said Ms. Shriver, an ecologist. "I hope that the lessons they learn will be put to use in protecting the earth."

Holocaust remembrance

Morris Rosen, an 86-year-old holocaust survivor, shares a moment with Raymond Schweiger, Real Estate, after the District's Holocaust Survivor observance April 26. Three of Schweiger's family members were killed during the Holocaust. During the observance, Rosen shared his story with approximately 65 District employees. During the Holocaust, he survived the Dambrowa Ghetto, four concentration camps and a death march. Besides describing the many atrocities he witnessed during the war, Rosen's message was of the need for tolerance and peace in our communities and in our world.



(Photo by Fred Furney)

Engineering, scientific interns enjoy Corps opportunities

By Fred Furney
Public Affairs Office

The word opportunity is used often when Jordan Dillen, Laura Gonser, Pete Wilson, Cathleen Barry and Andy Lal talk about their internships in the Career Program -18 (CP-18).

Career Program - 18 is the designated occupational series performing engineering and scientific (resources and construction) functions within the Department of the Army.

As part of this program the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has an intern program to prepare engineering and science professionals.

The program typically requires that interns spend 12 to 24 months of assignments throughout the Corps, according to Sara Robert, assistant intern coordinator.

The objective of the internship program is to train highly capable engineers and scientists to meet Corps designated functional responsibilities for civil works planning, construction, engineering, environmental, natural and cultural resources, operations, program and project management, research and development, and public works.

Baltimore District currently has 55 interns in the program.

By all accounts the interns feel they have been given vast opportunities under the CP-18 program.

They've visited wetlands, collected soil samples at Poplar Island, inspected stormwater outfalls for the Virginia Department of Transportation, participated on technical review boards, helped manage multi-million dollar construction projects and attended PROSPECT courses.

"I was intrigued by the chance to work in the several different areas of engineering that the Corps is involved in, as well as the opportunity to support the mission of the U.S. Army," said Lal, who graduated from the University of Maryland in May 2009.

Ms. Gonser said she became a civil engineer to help the public.

"With the Corps you're always working for the citizen," said Ms. Gonser.

She said she was grateful for the opportunity to take course work to obtain her State of Maryland Erosion and Sediment Control Certification.



(Photo by Cornelius Cheatham)

Laura Gonser, a Career Program-18 intern, views a shear, which is used for clearing and grubbing operations.

The course, which is taught by the Maryland Department of the Environment, is designed to provide an understanding of necessary measures of erosion and sediment controls on a job site.

"As someone concerned about the environment and working in the field of construction, minimizing ill effects associated with construction is important to me," said Ms. Gonser.

"I see myself making the most of my career with the Corps," said Dillen. "Rather than find a section that I like and staying put, I'd like to see what other job opportunities are available within the Corps."

The ability to travel at home and abroad also excites the interns.

Ms. Barry said she hopes for a tour of duty to Japan. She detailed two reasons for this. First, she was born at Yokosuka Naval Base while her father (a retired naval officer) was stationed in Japan, and second, she is intrigued by the historical relationship between the U.S. and Japan.

"Deployment would be a great opportunity for me to see new things and gain expertise in the construction field," Wilson said.

Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

By Michael Barfield
Equal Employment Opportunity Office

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month—a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Much like Black History and Women’s History celebrations, APA Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill.

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to

proclaim the first 10 days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, Hawaii Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed.

President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution Oct. 5, 1978, designating the annual celebration.

In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen

to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students. This year’s theme is “Diverse Leadership for a Diverse Workforce.”

Corporate Board initiative highlights deployed teammates

By Clem Gaines
Chief, Public Affairs

Baltimore District personnel who deploy to overseas contingency operations and disasters in the United States will have more opportunities for recognition based on a January Corporate Board decision.

“The Board’s decision is simple – we want to commend those who deploy to support these important, but geographically distant, missions. We also want to encourage others to deploy for the District and the Corps,” said Ron Maj, chief, Engineering Division, the Corporate Board champion for this effort.

The Corporate Board, the District’s senior decision making body, includes all of the Division Chiefs and the military leadership. Meeting monthly, they consider the strategic and long-range goals and requirements to meet the dynamic missions of the District. Various staff offices provide key expertise and advice to the Board.

Both individuals and teams deploy from Baltimore District; more than 200 people have deployed since 2003. This includes those going to an overseas contingency operation, the Base Development Team, the Forward Engineering Support Team-Advance,

individuals who deploy in the United States to support disaster relief, and others. The Board felt that the workforce simply did not know about the number of people or scope of missions supported by the District.

The annual Awards Ceremony contained several slides of those who have deployed just since April 2009 and four videos with greetings and encouragement from Baltimore District personnel in Afghanistan, a highlight of the ceremony.

There is also an Employees Supporting Contingency Operations board on the 11th floor in the City Crescent Building with the names, country and dates of deployment as an additional recognition.

Col. Dave Anderson, Baltimore District Engineer, will also ensure that he or the deputy DE, Maj. Hugh Darville, meet and talk to every deploying person before they go.

As part of the initiative, the Constellation will include more photos and stories on those who deploy and stories on deployment-related issues.

People who deploy will also have an option to have a story written and submitted to their hometown newspaper.

Employees, or family members, can send in suggestions on this initiative to the Constellation editor at constellationeditor@usace.army.mil.

Raystown Lake holds annual Cleanup Day

By Tina Carlsen
Public Affairs Office

More than 100 volunteers turned out for the 2010 Raystown Lake Cleanup Day on April 24, collecting more than 90 bags of recyclables, 50 bags of trash and several large items, including 32 tires and three refrigerators.

Volunteers loaded onto 16 boats that morning and were transported to outlying shorelines. Recent highwater levels, at least eight feet over normal levels, had left their mark.

"This is the most debris I've seen," said Dick Antes, a Raystown Lake volunteer who has dedicated more than 2,000 hours to the Corps over the past 20 years.

After about two hours of gathering debris, items were brought back to the launch point at Tatman



(Photos by Tina Carlsen)

(Left) Participants return from outlying shorelines with their catch of the day -- debris. (Right) Much of the shoreline is steep and thick with bushes.

Run and sorted.

"Our volunteers are great, and The Friends of Raystown are the key to success. They've dedicated 24 years to the event," said Melissa Bean, Raystown Lake park ranger and Corps organizer for the event. "They were there recruiting volun-

teers, finding sponsors, preparing lunch, picking up trash, driving boats, and leading the cause to keep Raystown Lake Beautiful! Visitors may not recognize The Friends, but The Corps of Engineers at Raystown Lake do and we sincerely thank them."

Jennings Randolph Lake

A scheduled release at Jennings Randolph Lake, W.Va., April 24-25 allowed whitewater enthusiasts to enjoy Class III rapids. Another whitewater release is scheduled for May 22-23. The Water Resources Development Act of 1988 added downstream recreation as an authorized project purpose for Jennings Randolph Lake. Last year, more than 1,400 whitewater rafters enjoyed the scheduled releases. The Mineral County Parks and Recreation Commission signed a lease in 1990 to develop, operate and maintain the whitewater and fishing access downstream of the dam, near Barnum, W.Va. The commission is the point of contact for requests for whitewater releases by private groups and outfitters. Call (304) 788-5732 for more information. Releases are made only if there is sufficient water for other project purposes. For up-to-date information on lake conditions, local weather forecasts, call (304) 355-2890. The Corps operates and maintains six recreation areas at Jennings Randolph, including a campground, two overlooks, a picnic area, a beach and a boat launch.



(Left) Whitewater releases from the dam at Jennings Randolph Lake mean whitewater activities such as kayaking (right) and rafting can take place.



(Photos by Tina Carlsen)

Awards ceremony celebrates success at home and abroad

By Tina Carlsen
Public Affairs Office

More than 600 employees gathered at the Sheraton City Center in Baltimore April 13 to attend Baltimore District's 2009 Annual Awards ceremony.

The theme of the ceremony was "Building Strong Today to Ensure a Strong Tomorrow."

Baltimore District has been doing just that.

"This has been an incredible year," said District Engineer Col. Dave Anderson. "We're doing a historic workload for Baltimore District. We spent \$2.8 billion in the community last year -- \$8 billion in the

last five years. We're spending money in the region during a time when our nation needs it."

Anderson thanked District employees for their contributions to the mission.

"What you've done is nothing short of incredible," he said. "Because of the work we're doing, I feel good about the future. I could not be more proud of the work you do everyday."

The annual awards ceremony is used to recognize and acknowledge Baltimore District employees who have demonstrated superb on-the-job performance and have made significant contributions to their particular office and to the District.

"The people and teams we recognized have spent the past year demonstrating the

highest level of performance, dedication and commitment to the organization," said Capt. Joshua Thaniel, deputy district engineer for support operations and master of ceremonies at the event.

There were numerous special awards and honorary awards presented. Several employees were also honored for their nominations to the Federal Executive Board Awards Program.

In addition to the various teams who were recognized, people were honored for 30, 35, 40 and 55 years of service, respectively.

A highlight of the ceremony included videos from Baltimore District teammates deployed in support of contingency operations.



(Photos by F.T. Eyre)

(Above) Col. Dave Anderson, Baltimore District Engineer, congratulates Robert Lindner on his induction into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees, acknowledging his 39-year career with the Baltimore District that began in 1965. (Right) During the ceremony, Anderson charged employees to always keep Army Values in mind, to respect each other and to take care of themselves.



Length of Service Awards

30 years

David Boyer, WA; Theodore Clyde, OP; Timothy Cotter, APG; Steven Dunn, CO; Curtis Floyd, CO; Rhonda Franz, RSFO; Kimberly Jirsa, PPM; Allen Johnson, BIO; Gary Lang, CO; Susan Lewis, RE; Richard Ludwitzke, EN; Richard McDonald, CO; Ronald Qualls, WA; James Rich, CT; Jerome Rifkin, CT; Kimm Rocky, OP; Patrick Sampsel, CO; Carol Shutt, RSFO; Alan Warminski, EN; Micah Young, WA; and Lisa Zepp, RSFO

35 years

Michael Armstrong, BIO; Gregory Bass, EN; Dwight Beall, OP; Robert Blama, OP; Mary Bogdan, HR; Eleanor Bostwick, RSFO; Ronald Bowers, OP; Deborah Dawson, OP; Virginia Fetterolf, CO; Woodson Francis, Jr., OP; Theresa Gomes,

CO; Paul Mainquist, OP; Leland Reeser, EN; Jon Romeo, OP; Donald Ruhl, EN; Debra Strickland, EN; Rhonda Sturdavant-Harris, CT; John Svitil, Jr., EN; Robert Walker, WA; and Regina Wheeler, CT

40 years

Virginia Schoen, CO

55 years

Ann Haught, EX

Federal Executive Board Nominees

Outstanding Supervisor (Grades 13 and above): Sara Robert, EN

Outstanding Trades and Crafts Employee (Non-Supervisory): Mark Tucci, OP

Outstanding Professional (Non-Supervisory): Barry Cortright, EN

Outstanding Professional (Non-Supervisory) Administrative, Management and Specialist: Andrew Roach, PL

Outstanding Para-Professional (Technical, Scientific and Program Support): Helen Busch, OC

Outstanding Para-Professional (Technical, Scientific and Program Support Team): The Department of Defense National Relocation Program Team of Natalie Schleicher, Sue Jones, Felecia Johnson, Tanya Harleston, Janet Kriner, Lillian Lamb and Samantha Zimmerman, RE

Outstanding Para-Professional (Administrative, Management Analyst, GS-8 and Above): Jane Breeden, EN

Outstanding Administrative Assistant: Megan Penn, RM

Outstanding Volunteer Services: Emily Schiffmacher, EN

Rookie of the Year (Administrative/Management Analyst): Vikas Singhal, WA

Rookie of the Year (Technical, Scientific and Program Support): Ethan O. Weikel, EN

Special Awards

Baltimore District Planner of the Year: David Robbins, PL

2009 NAB/NAD Hard Hat of the Year Award: Kevin Leedy, CO

2009 Construction Management Excellence: Christanne Haught, CO

Support Office Employee of the Year: Victoria Brooks, IR; Christine Jacoby, OC;

and Patrick Morris, SA.

Commander's Award for Civilian Service: Lawrence Eastman, PL, and Kathryn Yurek, CO.

Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees: Robert Lindner and David MacGregor.

Baltimore District Team Awards

Honor Awards

Project 536; Yuma (Az.) Proving Ground Enhanced Use Lease Project; Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot in Suffolk, Va.; and Anacostia Restoration Plan.

Merit Awards

Repairs to Fort Detrick Wastewater Treatment Plant; Active Military Munitions Response Plan; Arlington National Cemetery - Repaving of the Bus Parking Area; Wallops Flight Facility Formerly Used Defense Site; and Defense

Information Systems Agency Headquarters Facilities, Fort Meade.

Special Recognition Awards

BRAC Navy Medical Bio-Defense Research Laboratory; National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Main Building; District of Columbia Public Schools Financial Close-Out; National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Site and Infrastructure; USAMRIID Early Site Package, Fort Detrick, Md.; and Fiscal Law Refresher Training Initiative.

Recognition Awards

National Hurricane Program; Water Resources Technical Services; National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Contract Admin Team; Susquehanna River Basin Commission; Cost Share Management Process Improvements; and Enterprise Geographic Information Systems

Operations projects, personnel protect watershed communities

Story and photo by David Ruderman
Public Affairs Office

It falls from the sky as water and snow, and blankets the earth, but where does it go?

Whether in the form of runoff from winter snowmelt or torrential springtime rains, the answer in large swathes of the mid-Atlantic uplands is: the water runs into a skein of channels, creeks, lakes and rivers that constitute the 27,000-square mile Susquehanna River watershed, the source of half the fresh water running into Chesapeake Bay.

Along the 440-mile long Susquehanna, Baltimore District personnel, working with a diverse cohort of state and local partners, operate and maintain a complex of dams, levees, floodwalls and gates that manage the water flow and limit the damage it can wreak on the environmental, social and economic networks of the region.

It's a skilled and far-flung workforce, stationed at times in remote locations, and unified by strands of technology, some cutting edge wonders of the digital age, some time-tested workhorses of a more mechanical era, all anchored by the Water Control Team and Operations Division at district headquarters in Baltimore.

Season after season, come rain or shine, they are on the job, protecting the people, towns and cities of the Susquehanna.

On the river's North Branch, Leon Skinner works out of an office overlooking Whitney Point Lake Dam, overseeing 10 southern New York Local Flood Protection Projects on tributaries running through communities a hundred miles apart, but united by their rivers. The Corps maintains a diverse array of damage reduction projects across south central New York that range from Hornell and Avoca in the west to Oxford and Binghamton in the east.

The mix of levees, check dams and floodwalls was originally constructed at a cost of under \$17 million in compliance with the Flood Control Acts of 1936 and 1938, and has prevented flood damages with an estimated value of nearly \$1.5 billion in the 70 years since, though many residents have only a vague notion that the Corps is responsible for protecting their towns.

"Some of these projects, it's kind of like the public doesn't



A boater nears the floodwall at Wilkes-Barre.

think 'Corps of Engineers,'" said Skinner. "Then it's on me to establish a relationship, working with the Department of Environmental Services."

Farther south, in the flood prone Wyoming Valley of north-east Pennsylvania, the Corps has partnered since 2003 with the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority to raise about 15 miles of protective levees and floodwalls an additional height of three to five feet.

The original protective structures were built in the 1930s, but in 1972 Hurricane Agnes caused more than \$1 billion in flood related damages in the valley. Corps improvements have included a stunning riverfront development project at Wilkes-Barre and a mitigation plan to reduce adverse impacts on more than 50 communities farther downstream.

About 20 miles to the north, the Corps has been working for most of a decade with the city of Scranton and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to bring 100-year-flood level of protection to residents.

The project called originally for 7,500 feet of floodwall, gates and levees in the Albright Avenue area, and was amended by the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Acts of 1998 and 1999 to include an additional 13,750 feet of protective structures in the Green Ridge and Plot neighborhoods.

"It's been storm event after storm event after storm event for the people in these sections, so this has made a really big difference to them," said Alfred Zarnoski, of the Northeast Resident Office in Wilkes-Barre.

Far from the towns and cities, closer to nature, lie the crown jewels of the district's water management projects, the dams and reservoirs that can contain and release enormous quantities of water. Mostly operated by two to three people, they play a major part in protecting the people and property of their regions.

Stillwater Lake Dam stands near the head waters of the Lackawanna River, four miles upstream from Forest City, Pa., where head dam operator Joseph Chernesky has been with the Baltimore District for nine years. He and his lieutenant, assistant dam operator Bruno Rocuba, work in one of the network's more remote locations, close to the elements, surrounded by forest. The 1,700-foot earthfill dam, which began operating in 1960, rises 75 feet above the streambed.

"When we're operational at eight feet, we're pushing out 1,200 cubic feet per second of water," said Chernesky. "It's quite a water flow."

Stillwater Lake Dam provides drinking water to a four-town region, and allows no motorized boating on its waters in the summer. Even so, the lake is stocked with trout and area residents gather annually for a trout fishing tournament as well as kayaking, canoeing, picnicking and grilling at the recreational area.

In the winter months Chernesky and Rocuba conduct a snow survey every Tuesday, which demands a 37-mile trek in the dam's vicinity to take readings in eight locations.

"When we have a high water event, we get calls here a lot," said Chernesky.

When there is high water, it's time to go into high action, taking and transmitting readings, and standing by for operating instructions from the Water Control Team.

It happened this spring.

Significant rainfall beginning March 12 sent Water Control into battle mode. Dam operators in the field went on alert, communicating reservoir levels and adjusting flows as directed, and handling calls from area residents and agencies.

Operators impounded excess flood run-off as determined by Water Control, all the while feeding measurements to the team in Baltimore. Outlet gates at seven reservoirs were closed for part of that weekend to reduce downstream flooding potential, and outflows from others were curtailed.

Up to three inches of rain fell in the Potomac and Juniata River basins, with lesser, but still significant amounts on the north branch of the Susquehanna.

By the time the rain-bearing storms moved away to the east on March 15, only Stillwater Lake in the east, and Foster Joseph Sayers Dams in the west, remained closed. On the morning of the fourth day, all Corps dams were moving with deliberate speed to evacuate impounded flood waters and adjust outflows as necessary to reach their normal conservation pool levels.

"The sites are well run by guys that love what they're doing, and have the experience to do what they need to get done," said Maj. Hugh Darville, Baltimore District deputy commander.

"It's important to make sure the people in the field get the support they need to accomplish the mission," he said.

Chernesky was enthusiastic about a recently authorized ARRA contract that would provide an all-weather cab for the tractor he and Rocuba use for mowing on the dam.

"That'll be a great help," said Chernesky. "The wind here gets brutal: you get that northwest wind here, even in summer."

"I understand how important the dams and the levees are up here," said Capt. Joshua Thaniel, Deputy District Engineer for support operations, during a recent visit to the site. "When they [local residents] see Soldiers from the Corps of Engineers, they ask, 'Is everything OK?' I would be asking every day, 'Is everything OK? Do I have to move?'"

The answer is: No. You don't have to move. The Corps is on the case, managing the flow of water that falls from the sky, protecting the people of the Susquehanna River watershed, their families, their homes and their way of life.

EDS continued from page 1

ment, a sealed, stainless steel vessel, contains all the blast, vapor, liquid and fragments from the process. Treatment is confirmed by sampling the treated liquid and residual vapors from the vessel prior to opening the EDS vessel door.

As an additional safety precaution, EDS operations were conducted inside a metal vapor containment structure that protected the workers and equipment from adverse weather and served as secondary containment for any potential chemical release resulting from unpacking a chemical munition prior to loading in the EDS. Solid and liquid wastes generated during the treatment process were packaged in accordance with the EDS Destruction Plan and Department of Transportation/Commerce regulations and shipped to a permitted treatment, storage and disposal facility.

“Every plan we have at Spring Valley is about ensuring the public’s safety, especially in this operation,” said Col. Dave Anderson, Baltimore District Engineer. “The safety and health of the residents of Spring Valley and our workers is always our first priority.”

BEFORE (Top right): A munition containing the chemical agent lewisite is being prepared for destruction in the Explosive Destruction System.

AFTER (Bottom right): The same munition after safe destruction in the EDS. The munition was cut in half by the explosive cutting charge, and the chemical agent neutralized.



ANACOSTIA cont. from page 3

secretary of the Army for Civil Works. “We want this plan to be a catalyst and return this national treasure to the Nation’s capitol.”

“This will be the first river that will have a “trash diet” put in place. It will be the second in the country and the first on the east coast,” said Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley. “So don’t give up on the progress. The plan is complete, but the work is not.”

There is still discussion on where the \$1.7 billion will come from, but the stakeholders will examine the

means to secure funding.

“The ARP contains an array of projects that can be implemented by federal, state and local agencies, as well as private entities and homeowners,” said Ms. Dan. “Contingent upon the available funds, a subset of the project inventory can be implemented by the Corps of Engineers using our current authorities and any new authorities that Congress might offer.”

The plan will improve the quality of life for community members by providing cleaner water and additional recreational opportunities.

“We have a responsibility to preserve and protect our environment for future generations,” said the Honorable Donna Edwards, member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Removing trash from along the streams and clearing it from the gutters due to rain is another proposal from the plan.

“This has been called the dirtiest river in the United States,” said the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, member of the U.S. House of Representatives. “Let’s try to have this be the last time the Anacostia River is called the forgotten river.”

District goes one step further with safety programs

By John Houvener

Safety and Occupational Health Office

In accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Occupational Safety and Health Administration, each employer must have an overall safety training program including relative site specific safety information which should cover topics such as:

- Accident Prevention and Safety Promotion
- Safety Compliance
- Accident and Emergency Response
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Safety Practices
- Equipment and Machinery
- Workplace Hazards

The Baltimore District meets this requirement through the use of the New Employee Orientation, development of a Position Hazard Analysis, online Composite Risk Management training, Safety for Supervisors training and the online Accident Avoidance course.

The Baltimore District has taken the requirement one step further by requiring that each of our field staff, who has contractor oversight responsibilities, complete the OSHA 30-hour for Construction Course or a PROSPECT equivalent.

Benefits of the training program and the OSHA 30-hour requirement

An effective training program, including the requirement to complete the OSHA 30-hour or equivalent training, can reduce the number of injuries and deaths, property damage, legal liability, illnesses, workers compensation claims, and missed time from work.

The District safety training program helps to establish a safety culture in which our employees help promote proper safety procedures while on the job.

The program has been approved by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Training and Outreach Division, and District trainers are authorized to deliver these classes at field sites and project offices.



(Courtesy photo)

Personal Protective Equipment is one of the topics covered in the Baltimore District safety training program.

The OSHA 30-hour Construction Course opens with an overview of OSHA and tips on how to locate specific OSHA regulations. It also covers each subpart of OSHA Construction Standards, including sections on basic electrical safety, fall protection, scaffolding, excavations, stairways and ladders, cranes, personal protective equipment, and tools and equipment.

The training is customized for USACE construction standards so participants leave the class armed with training, reference materials, and information that is meaningful to USACE operations. After the class, attendees receive a certificate of completion, plus the official wallet card issued by OSHA, to certify they successfully completed the course.

The Baltimore District training program and its OSHA 30-hour course is highly regarded throughout USACE and because of that, our outreach trainers, Bill Ferrier and Patrick Morris, were asked to support the Middle East District by conducting the course in Kuwait in April.

There were 36 military and USACE civilian employees at the training. The course was very well received and the attendees made comments on the evaluation sheets like "I feel the information was great and I will be able to utilize the knowledge in a practical environment," "The instructors were very good at making the information make sense" and "The instructors were very knowledgeable and conveyed the information very well."



(Photo by Richard Lippenholz)

Greatest story never told

Col. (P) Peter DeLuca, North Atlantic Division commander, speaks to about 200 members of the BWI Business Partnership, Inc., at their monthly signature breakfast April 20. His presentation, “The Greatest Story Never Told,” was about the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in our wars and the demands for engineering technical capabilities and how they can help. DeLuca stressed the need to educate the public about our infrastructure.

He encouraged audience members to help tell our story. “Speak to the lawmakers, business associations, elected leaders and industry and the general public about local infrastructure needs,” he said. “There is an increasing demand from customers for speed. This demand for speed will not go away. We’re adapting our process to meet this demand – we’re learning how to do this better and our contractors will need to meet this need as well.”

On behalf of the colonel, the Partnership made a \$104,000 donation to the Fort Meade Wounded Warriors Transition Unit. The unit currently houses more than 150 wounded warriors from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

Information provided by Joyce Conant

Baltimore District Annual Picnic

July 16

Watch for more details soon.

All employees are encouraged to attend.

Our Proud Past

This series will present vignettes from Baltimore District’s history, culled from vintage issues of the District newsletter. We also welcome contributions from long-time employees and retirees.

In June 1971, the Planning Division initiated a study of the Codorus Creek Basin in York, Pa., for “managing the municipal and industrial wastewater of the basin...to improve the quality of Codorus Creek and its tributaries.” William Trieschman, then Chief of Planning, partnered with EPA, York County and Pennsylvania state authorities on this project.

The full article is available in the District Library, City Crescent Building, Rm. 9000-W.

Harvest for the Hungry Wrap Up

The Baltimore District’s Harvest for the Hungry food drive ended April 30, with Corps employees donating 1,363 food items to the Maryland Food Bank, a program used to feed hungry Marylanders. The District started its program in March. It was extended an extra month this year to allow for more participation.

Sexual harassment prevention

The Prevention of Sexual Harassment mandatory training for new employees is May 18 at 9 a.m. in City Crescent Building, Rm. 11240. For more information, call Michael Barfield at (410) 962-6135.

AED brown bag discussion

Emergency Management is holding a brown bag lunch and discussion about Afganistan Engineer District deployments May 27 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in City Crescent Building, Rm. 11240. Participants can hear from employees who have deployed and talk with others who have an interest in deploying. There will also be a presentation from the North Atlantic Division on deployments.

PMP certification training

The Programs and Professional Development Support Center is conducting Project Management Professional certification training courses on a quarterly basis. The next course will be July 12 - 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the City Crescent Building's 4A and 4B, 4th floor conference rooms. For more information, call Mehrnoosh Mirzaei-Fard at (410) 779-0231.

P2 Bootcamp

P2 Bootcamp will be held July 19 - 23 in City Crescent Building, Rm. 9500. PMP's can earn

PDU's by attending these sessions. For more information, call Helen Bunche at (410) 962-3410.

Thrift Savings Plan changes

Beginning in August, newly hired or rehired employees who don't make a Thrift Savings Plan contribution election will be enrolled in TSP at a contribution rate of three percent of basic pay each pay period. Non-contributing employees on agency rolls prior to this date will not be automatically enrolled. TSP Bulletin TSP 10-3, *Implementation of Automatic Enrollment in the Thrift Savings Plan*, provides more detailed information and is available at www.tsp.gov.

Baltimore District's "Check It" Program May's Theme is: Operations Division



CHECK IT
what gets checked
gets done

(Photo by Fred Furney)

Aboard the Linthicum, the Baltimore District survey boat, Mike Hulme and Molly Donahue, Operations Division, check the speed of sound using specialized hydrographic survey equipment in the Port of Baltimore April 16. The information is used to correct survey data. The Check It program helps servicemembers, civilians and contractors throughout the Department of Defense. The program's goal is to remind us of the importance of double-checking ourselves and our work for safety and accuracy. Every month, the *Constellation* features a different organization and how they use the Check It program.



(Photo by Katisha Draughn)

Poplar Island project

The Spillway 16 at Poplar Island is nearing completion and is using the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The spillway will allow Baltimore District to drain water from Cell 6 when the inflow from the dredged material begins.



Department of the Army
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Baltimore District
 P.O. Box 1715
 Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
 Official Business



Baltimore Newsmakers

Welcome to... **Heather Cisar**, CPD Branch, PL; **John Voigt**, BAO; **Chris Winchester**, **Ken Nelson**, **Stacey McLeod**, **Carolyn Cruz**, **Carol Hilliard**, **Maryam Khan**, **Art Shenk** and **Staff Sgt. Mark Deteso**, Fort Detrick IPO; **Charprië Robinson**, RSFO; **Staff Sgt. Adam Fischer** and **Mario Sutton**, DC-IPO; and **Kenneth Barrett**, WA.

Welcome back to... **Carl Keller**, DC-IPO.

Congratulations to... **Gage Jones**, Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes, on his engagement; **Mark Simonis**, Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes, on the birth of his first grandchild; **Bill Selinsky**, OC, on the birth of his granddaughter; **Kevin Leedy**, Fort Detrick IPO, on receiving the District's 2010 Hard Hat of the Year award and for his return from Romania; **Justin Walter**, Fort Detrick IPO, on his marriage April 10; **Patryce Pickett** for being selected as the new chief, negotiations and analysis section in Contract Administration Branch, CO; **Colton Brewton** on his permanent assignment to the BAO; **Brian Mastervich**, BAO, on the birth on his daughter; **Aaron Ross**, BAO, on the birth of his daughter; **Helen Bunche**, RE, on her promotion to PPMD; **Ray McNeil** on his selection as deputy chief, PPMD; and **Jennifer Augustine**, CT, who has accepted a GS-15 position with the Defense Information Systems Agency.

Farewell to... **Dick Sawyer**, APG-IPO, as he retires; and **April Hlatky**, Raystown Lake, OP.

Transfers... **Anisha Downs**, EN, to Far East District, Korea; **Mario Sutton**, CO, from the BAO to DC-

Jennifer Augustine, Contracting Division, has accepted a GS-15 position with the Defense Information Systems Agency. Ms. Augustine worked at the Baltimore District since October 2008.



(Photo by Fred Furney)

IPO. **Roy Henry**, CO, from Baltimore District to Alaska District; **Rosalind Wiseman-Bell** from DC-IPO to the Corps of Engineers, Institute Water Resource, National Capital Region in Alexandria.

Sympathy to... **Tom Pluto**, OP, on the loss of his father; **Alan Andrysiak**, DC-IPO, on the loss of his aunt; and **Charlotte Gordon-El**, RE, on the loss of her sister.

Get well wishes to... **Joanne Hiebler**, RSFO; and **Claudia Wright** and **James Sikorski**, WA.

Thanks to ... "Corps family" members from **Nancy Cox**, retired PPMD employee, for the cards and notes of sympathy sent to her upon the passing of her mother; and the **Army Corps of Engineers** from **Yanique Conway**, EN, for the well-wishes, flowers and gifts sent during her hospital stay and recuperation.