



CONSTELLATION

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Cleaning up Lauderick Creek's past

by Doug Garman
Public Affairs Office

Since June, a team of ordnance specialist has been combing a small strip of land at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, searching for potentially explosive remnants of a past legacy in the nation's military arsenal.

APG officials, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractors are searching a 452-acre site in a northern portion of APG that was once used for testing and training with chemical-filled munitions.

From 1920 to 1951, the U.S. Army Chemical School used this site to train soldiers in the use and firing of chemical munitions at target areas, handling and maintenance of chemical warfare equipment, and training in decontamination of chemically contaminated material and personnel.

From 1954 through 1976, the Army also maintained a Nike Missile Battery within the site. Following the battery's decommissioning, its silos were decontaminated and filled with concrete and some of the structures were demolished.

Today, the remaining



An ordnance specialist digs with a small, non-sparking hand shovel to identify a suspect anomaly at the Lauderick Creek site.

Nike barracks serve as a field office for the ongoing ordnance search known as the Lauderick Creek Chemical Warfare Materiel Removal Project. The site, a quarter mile wide and a mixture of woodlands and waist-high grassy fields, is bounded on the north by APG, on the south and west by Lauderick Creek, and on the east by the Bush River.

"Because of the history of this site, many believe unexploded munitions containing chemical warfare materiel are likely to still exist here. Given this and the site's close proximity to homes and schools, Congress and the Depart-

ment of Defense identified the Lauderick Creek Project as a priority project," said Bruce Ware, resident engineer and manager of the day-to-day activities of the project for the Corps' Environmental Remediation Resident Office.

In planning for the Lauderick Creek project, Corps experts re-examined the agency's successes at a similar ongoing ordnance investigation and removal action in the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C., the nation's first clean up of chemical munitions in a residential neighborhood.

A review of archival

(Continued on p. 6&7)



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

[http://
www.nab.usace.army.mil](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil)

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District Engineer
Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.

Public Affairs Chief
Lucy Lather



Commander's Comment

Any contribution means a difference to someone

by Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.

"A giving heart creates a new start" is the theme of the 2000 Combined Federal Campaign that kicked off in Baltimore District Oct. 18. It will run into December.

The campaign gives you, a federal employee, an opportunity to give a donation to your favorite charity, with the convenience of automatic deductions from your bi-weekly or monthly pay.

With over a thousand charities from which to choose, there is an organization to fit everyone's interests—the biggest challenge is choosing which charity to help.

You may wish to send your donation to only one agency, or divide it among up to five agencies. In past years, Baltimore District employees have donated to a wide variety of charities.

Or, you might make your decision based on a personal connection, such as choosing a medical research

organization specializing in a disease that has hit your family.

You might choose to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate, handicapped, crisis victims or terminally ill.

Others base their decisions of environmental protection on the protection of human rights.

If you are undecided about which charity to support, you may send it as undesignated. These funds are distributed, on a prorated basis, among only those organizations

supported by Baltimore District employees, not across all United Way recipient agencies.

Seeing a need to bring the diversity of fundraising efforts under one umbrella, federal employees created the CFC—one campaign, once a year. By allowing employees to select from a single guide, and making their contribution through payroll deductions, the CFC opened the door to more opportunities for generous giving.

An executive order made the CFC a reality, and turned an idea into a way for federal employees to help those in need across their community and throughout the world.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

You have the right to contribute or not—the choice is yours.

Essayons!



Veterans Day and the joining of hands

Each year, the nation sets aside Nov. 11 as a day to honor the heroism and sacrifice of America's soldiers, past and present.

Veterans Day is the time we recall the courageous legacy of soldiers who fought in our nation's wars, from the War of Independence to the Persian Gulf.

It is also a moment for us to pause and express our appreciation for the fierce dedication of the many soldiers who serve in our ranks today.

In the 225 years since the Army's establishment, American soldiers have answered the call of duty with honor and dauntless courage.

From the snows of Valley Forge to the slopes of Little Round Top, from the forests of Meuse-Argonne, to the beaches of Normandy, from the frozen hills of the Chosun Reservoir to the burning sands of Kuwait, the men and women of the U.S. Army have demonstrated their invincible spirit and their love of freedom and human dignity.

Today, the men and women of the U.S. Army are trusted warriors who save lives, uphold the values that made America great, and defend the principles of democracy. At this very hour, thousands of soldiers are preserving the fragile peace in Korea and helping

quell ethnic violence and rebuild civil society in the Balkans. They support anti-drug efforts in Latin America, provide humanitarian assistance to the nations of Africa, and engage in confidence-building exercises with former Warsaw Pact states of Eastern Europe.

They are carrying on a legacy of valor and service that soldiers before them established through the long years of our nation's history.

Because of the tradition of excellence established by their predecessors before them in the long green line, soldiers today are able to face each challenge, accept every danger and overcome all obstacles with confidence and unparalleled dedication.

They are a shining example of all that is best in America. They are the vessel that embodies our nation's virtues; they are the strong right arm that shields our freedoms; and they are the mortar that helps bind our nation together in common purpose.

We cherish and honor our veterans and serving soldiers. We remember that they are the American heroes who answered the nation's call, doing the hard work of preserving the peace and freedom all Americans enjoy, and bringing hope and justice to people throughout the



world. Whatever achievements our nation has attained, whatever bounty we have been granted, we owe to the men and women who have stood guard at the front lines of our Republic.

And so on this day of reflection, a grateful nation thanks our veterans—young and old, those yet living and those who fell on foreign battlefields or are buried in the hallowed ground of cemeteries across our land—for all they have done and continue to do for the citizens of our great country.

—Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera and Army Chief of Staff General Eric K. Shinseki

Nov. 11 — a day to remember, honor the nation's veterans

A day to honor veterans, called Armistice Day, came into being at the close of World War I, Nov. 11, 1918. It was recognized as a holiday and celebrated in individual states for several years. Then on June 4, 1926, Congress made official

national recognition. Although Congress hoped for future peace, the world soon entered World War II, and peace was again shattered by the war in Korea. But there was no day of recognition for these men and women.

Then in 1954 the 83rd Con-

gress amended the Act by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." Nov. 11 became the day to honor veterans of all wars. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, Americans observe a moment of silence for all veterans.

District begins soil removal at Spring Valley

by Doug Garman
Public Affairs Office

Following several rounds of soil testing and a careful analysis of the results, Corps experts last month began removing contaminated soil from portions of one property in the Spring Valley neighborhood. This is part of the Corps' continuing investigation of this former World War I chemical munitions testing area.

Earlier this year during the Corps' excavation of two disposal pits in the backyard of the South Korean ambassador's property, surface and subsurface soil samples were taken from areas near the pit excavation.

The results of this testing indicated the soil in these areas contained elevated levels of arsenic. Using these results, the Corps completed a comprehensive risk assessment of the site and evaluated possible alternatives designed to clean up these areas.

"After carefully studying the sampling data and the risk to human health posed by the elevated arsenic levels, we developed an action plan for addressing this issue," said Maj. Brian Plaisted, Baltimore District project manager.

"Our plan recommends that the top two feet of soil be removed from the affected areas and replaced with new soil. We've coordinated this plan with the property owner, and they support our recommendation.

"We estimate this work will



A worker uses a hand trowel to take a soil sample at a Spring Valley property.

take approximately seven weeks to complete," said Plaisted.

The Corps expects only minor impacts to the community, which primarily involves increased truck traffic during daytime hours.

In addition to this work, the Corps recently completed soil sampling at approximately 45 properties near the ambassador's property.

"Although the elevated arsenic levels are confined primarily to the area of the pit excavations, we conducted a review of historical data of the adjacent area earlier this year," said Plaisted.

"Based on this review, we felt it was prudent to conduct some additional soil sampling at several nearby properties. The results of this testing are being provided to each property owner."

Later this month, the Corps will resume its efforts to investigate and clean up a small disposal area adjacent to American University, identified last year while experts worked at the ambassador's property.

While in this area in March, workers uncovered several large

ceramic pieces, which were then containerized in plastic. Although air samples at the site indicated trace amounts of industrial chemicals and not chemical warfare agents, these trace amounts did interfere with on-site monitoring equipment. For this reason, work stopped at the site until a new plan could be developed to address this situation.

This plan is finished,

and when work resumes, it will involve a limited, daytime evacuation of a few residents living next to the area. It will also involve the closure of a portion of a roadway near the American University campus. The Corps has coordinated this work with the affected property owners.

Historical records indicate that portions of the Spring Valley neighborhood were once used by military personnel assigned to the former American University Experiment Station between 1917 and 1919, to conduct research and testing of World War I chemical warfare materials.

Courtesy keeps customers coming

by Mary Beth Thompson
Public Affairs Office

Visitors who depart with positive feelings make a return visit more likely, observed Allen Gwinn, park ranger at the Corps of Engineers' Raystown Lake, Pa., project.

"When you're courteous to people, they respond, and, yes, the word gets out," Gwinn explained. "All of our visitors talk to one another."

Corps park rangers routinely answer visitors' questions, and explain and enforce rules at the Corps' recreation sites.

"We're in the public eye," Gwinn said. "The visitors see us at the campgrounds, the boat launches, the beaches, everywhere." That's all the more reason to keep a positive attitude, according to Gwinn, who, to his surprise, was named the District's Courteous Employee of the Month for November.

"There are so many people in this District who fit the bill," he said. He described his reaction as honored and also humbled.



Photo by John Sherrill

Allen Gwinn

Sometimes the job involves making recalcitrant visitors follow the rules, which has to be done with consideration. There are also customers who are angry.

"When somebody's upset, it's because something has happened that they're not happy with," Gwinn said. "They have a complaint or believe they were treated unfairly. I try to be nice, listen to them and understand the problem. Then I explain my position as clearly as I can."

Gwinn said that that attitude almost always turns angry people

around, and he often ends up having long, pleasant conversations with them.

"Most people are reasonable," he said. "If you are nice, friendly and treat people the way you would want to be treated, generally, they'll be nice back to you."

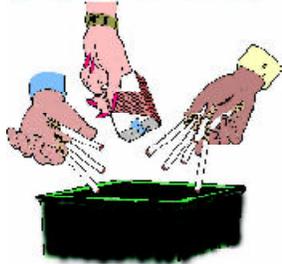
Gwinn credited his parents with instilling that point of view in him, and he hopes he can inspire the same attitude in the child he and his wife, Heather, are expecting in February. Ingrained in Gwinn, that positive approach goes beyond satisfying customers.

Gwinn displays the same proficient and friendly manner to everyone, according to Christina E. Correale, chief of Operations Division. In nominating him for the award, Correale said Gwinn treats park visitors, service contractors, personnel from other agencies and his fellow team members with respect, courtesy and professionalism.

"Courtesy makes for a better work environment," Gwinn said. "When you help people, it comes back to you."

The Great American Smokeout

JOIN IN!



The Great American Smokeout

On Nov. 16, the American Cancer Society hosts the 24th Great American Smokeout.

Tobacco is responsible for nearly one of every five deaths in the United States. For this reason, smokers are asked to quit cigarettes for at least one day in the hope they will quit forever.

According to demographic estimates, most Americans can anticipate living well into their mid-70s. But the World Health Organization

has projected that for smokers, the last seven of these years of life are likely to be marred by disabilities such as heart disease, lung disease or cancer.

According to medical studies, no matter how old you are, kicking the habit can dramatically reduce the likelihood of these illnesses and prevent the disabilities that accompany them.

Millions have quit smoking since the first Great American Smokeout in 1971. You can make this the first day of your smoke-free life.

Lauderick Creek investigation moves forward *(Continued from cover)*

information indicates the Lauderick Creek and Spring Valley sites share a similar history.

According to records, Army personnel conducted similar kinds of research, testing and training with World War I chemical warfare materials at both sites.

The Spring Valley site, known as the American University Experiment Station, was used from 1917 to 1919. When the experiment station was closed in 1919, the remaining warfare materiel was transported to the Army's newly established Chemical School at APG.

Today, the two sites are once again sharing similar activities, but this time with a much different intent. As cleanup activities move forward at both sites, the Corps has adopted similar cleanup procedures that involve special safety measures, carefully planned work activities and the need to have an effective community outreach and education effort.

With these procedures in place, the Corps conducted a geophysical survey of the Lauderick Creek site from 1996 to early 1997 and identified 20,000 magnetic anomalies within the project area. Over the years, experts have removed both conventional and chemical-filled ordnance items from the site. Experts add that if chemi-

cally filled munitions are found during this search the World War I chemical agents of phosgene and mustard are the most likely



A small steel structure is placed over the spot of each dig to stop fragments should a munition accidentally detonate.



Air monitoring devices and a specially built water-spray system mounted on an Army personnel carrier are also set up at a dig site.

warfare materiel to be contained in munitions.

"Working closely with our many installation, state and local partners, we have prepared and are following plans that are specifically targeted to meet the risks associated with this type of cleanup effort," said Ware. "So far, our field activities are work-

ing as we had planned."

According to Roger Walton, a Corps project engineer with the Lauderick Creek cleanup, the actual removal work involves a number of carefully planned steps and specially designed pieces of equipment.

Each dig is closely monitored from a remote location using video and air detection equipment. Before each dig, a small, three-sided metal structure, designed to stop metal fragments should a munition accidentally detonate, is placed over the spot of the dig. Ordnance experts with the contracting firm of Human Factors Applications of Waldorf, Md., working inside the structure, carefully dig with non-sparking hand shovels to a maximum depth of three feet to identify the suspect anomaly.

As an added measure of protection, three tracked Army personnel carriers equipped with water-spraying apparatus circle the spot of the dig. Should an accidental release of chemical

agent occur, water would be used to dissipate a plume of agent. Warning sirens are used in conjunction with this system, which would alert the surrounding communities to a potential chemical release and the need to "shelter-in-place."

If an anomaly is identified as a munition, the Army's Techni-



Water-spray apparatus is tested prior to the start of the project.



Ordnance specialists practice decontamination procedures should a chemical release occur.

cal Escort Unit, headquartered at APG, will be called to the site to complete the assessment of the round. They will decide the best procedure for removing the items.

“The stability, direction and speed of the wind is an important factor in whether or not we will dig in a particular area on a particular day,” said Walton. “It is important that we maintain a safety buffer between the spot of the dig and nearby residences, just in case a problem should occur.”

Due to public concerns about the project, the Corps and its contractors launched an intensive community outreach campaign during the early planning stages for the project.

This campaign involved educating businesses and neighborhoods surrounding the site about the potential risks of the cleanup. Through door-to-door visits, block fairs and various presentations in schools, the Corps and its contractors trained the local community on what to do if emergency sirens sounded around the project area should

sound, signaling an accidental release of chemical material at the work site.

If such an event should occur, local residents have been instructed on how to “shelter-in-place.”

This protective measure involves three simple steps. They are: go inside quickly and stay off the phone, close all windows and doors and turn off air conditioning or heating systems, and listen quietly for instructions on the radio.

To remind the public of the “shelter-in-place” measure, brochures, posters and bookmarks were distributed to residents, businesses and area schools.

During the remainder of the project, the public will be provided daily updates on activities through the Internet, a telephone information line and a mobile community office, which is dispatched daily to key locations within the community.

“To date, workers have recovered two liquid-filled 4.2-inch mortar rounds, 125 pounds of



One of two liquid-filled mortar rounds recovered from the site.

ordnance-related scrap and 400 pounds of miscellaneous scrap and construction debris,” said Walton. “One of the mortar rounds has been found to contain water and sand; the other round is awaiting testing by the Technical Escort Unit.”

The Corps’ original contract schedule estimates the Lauderick Creek project would be completed in about two and half years.

However, Corps officials and others agree weather conditions and demands on resources will play a major factor in achieving this goal.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior where one person in a relationship tries to gain power and control over his or her partner through fear and intimidation. This can take the form of threatening or actually using physical violence, or the abuse can be emotional, economic or sexual.

Domestic violence happens to men and women in all racial, economic and religious groups, but women are the victims in 95 percent of reported cases.

Children in homes where spouse abuse occurs are also at risk, both for being abused themselves and for having such problems as anxiety, depression, poor health, low self-esteem, drug abuse and suicide. Domestic violence often goes unreported, but an estimated 3 million to 4 million American women are beaten each year by their partners.

No warning

Some experts say that a woman has between a 20 percent and 33 percent chance of being physically assaulted by a partner or ex-partner in her lifetime.

Domestic violence can flare up with little or no warning and from a spouse who is a loving partner in many other ways.

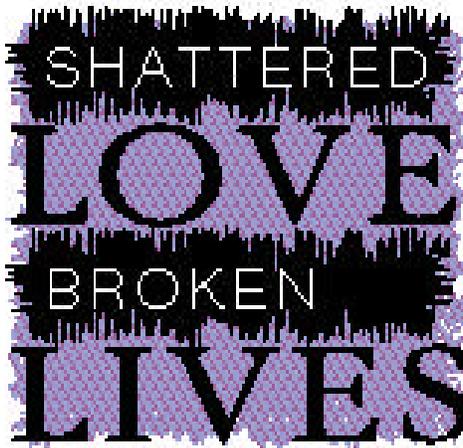
The abuse may start as verbal or psychological, then escalate to physical assault. Therefore, the best time to seek counseling and take other preventive steps is at the first sign of abuse.

In order to prevent future abuse, both partners must be committed to making a nonviolent relationship work.

Police can help when physical violence is occurring or seems

imminent. The courts can provide special orders to keep abusive partners away from their victims.

Counselors and support groups are available for both victims and abusers. Local domestic violence shelters offer safe havens for victims and children as well as counseling and education programs.



Be prepared in advance to protect yourself and your children if a crisis should arise:

Prearrange a safe place to go, such as the home of a friend or relative or a hotel.

Have the following items packed and in an accessible place such as a car, closet, at work or with friends: two to three days' worth of clothes; money, checks and charge cards; important papers such as birth certificates, court orders, immunization records, driver's license; phone numbers of friends, shelters and counselors.

12 Early Warning Signs

- Abuse during courtship.
- Alcohol or drug abuse.
- Background of family violence.

- Minimizing effects of violence.
- Denial of problem.
- Difficulty handling frustration.
- Extreme jealousy.
- Mental abuse.
- Need to control.
- Sexual abuse.
- Threats of violence.
- Verbal abuse.

Are you being abused?

- Are you afraid of doing the "wrong" thing, even if you're not sure what that is?
- Does your partner watch your every move?
- Do you feel sexually ashamed or humiliated, or are you being sexually hurt?
- Does your partner refuse to help when you're sick?
- Does he or she "put you down" at home or in public?
- Do you avoid even discussing some subjects because you're afraid your partner's reaction will be violent?
- Does your partner place excessive limitations on the things you do?
- Does your partner accuse you of being unfaithful, crazy or worthless?
- Has he or she injured you physically?
- Do you live in constant fear for yourself or your children?

If you are abused, you must protect yourself and your children. Seek help, preferably for both yourself and your partner, but at least for yourself. Make the changes necessary for you and your children to live abuse-free.

It's never too soon—or too late—to admit there is a problem and seek help. (ARNewS)

Political activities: what you can, can't do

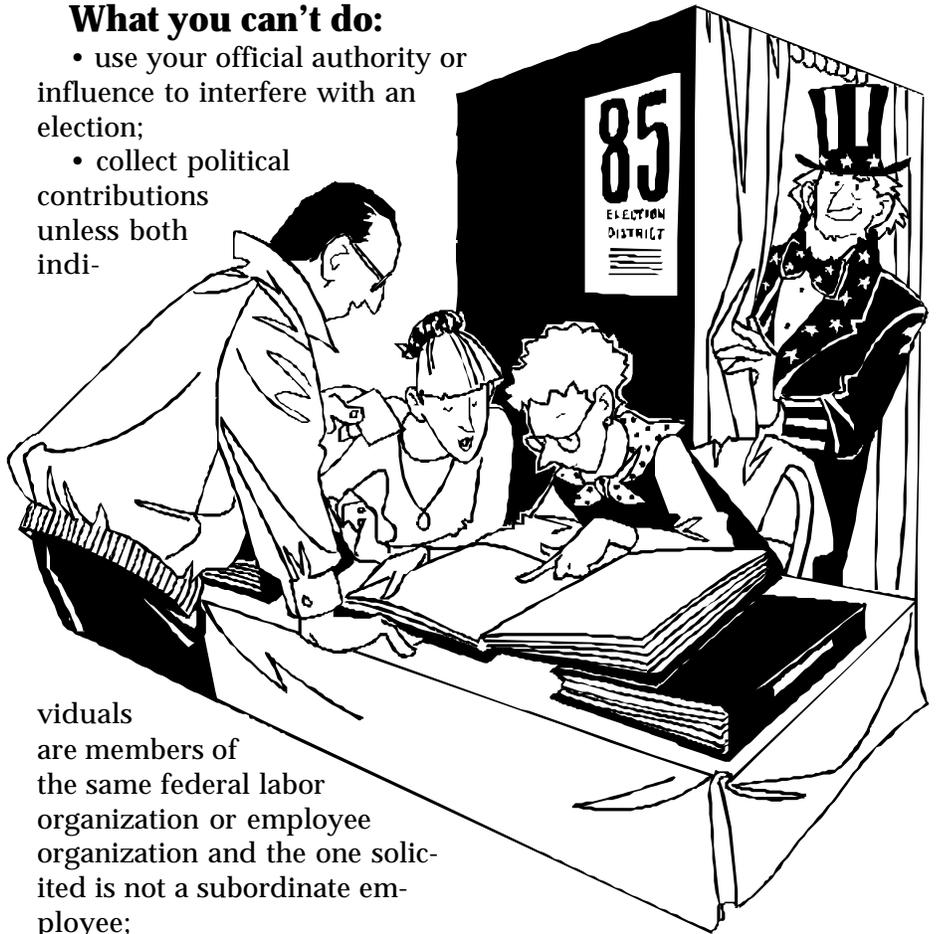
With another election fast approaching, here is some guidance that might help you determine what you can and cannot do as a government employee.

What you can do:

- be a candidate for public office in a nonpartisan election;
- register and vote as you choose;
- assist in voter registration drives;
- express your opinions about candidates and issues;
- contribute money to political organizations;
- attend political fund-raising functions;
- attend and be active at political rallies and meetings;
- join and be an active member of a political party or club;
- sign nominating petitions;
- campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances;
- campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections;
- manage the political campaign of a partisan political candidate or a candidate for political party office;
- make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections;
- distribute campaign literature in partisan elections;
- endorse partisan political candidates in a political advertisement, broadcast, campaign literature, or similar material.

What you can't do:

- use your official authority or influence to interfere with an election;
- collect political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee;
- knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency;
- engage in political activity while on duty;
- engage in political activity in any government office;
- engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform;
- engage in political activity using a government vehicle;
- be a candidate for public office in a partisan election;



- wear political buttons on duty.

The term partisan election means an election at any level of government in which any of the candidates runs for the office as a member of any political party that received any electoral votes at the last presidential elections.

For more information, you can also call 1-800-85-HATCH (854-2824)

*(Courtesy, Office of Counsel
Chicago District)*

Senate confirms Flowers as new chief

On Oct. 6, the U.S. Senate confirmed Maj. Gen. Robert B. Flowers for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general and assignment as the chief of engineers/commanding general, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Flowers became the 50th chief of engineers in an assumption of command ceremony Oct. 23.

Most recently, Flowers served as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood and commandant of the U.S. Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Previous assignments include commander of Mississippi Valley Division; assistant division commander, 2nd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Korea; deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Engineer Center, and assistant commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood; commander, 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) (Airborne Corps), Fort Bragg, N.C.; and other command and staff positions.

Flowers graduated from the Virginia Military Institute and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1969. His civilian and military education include a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Virginia, the Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General Staff College and the National War College. Flowers is a registered professional engineer in Virginia.

Nominations due this month for Gallery of Distinguished Employees

The District's *ad hoc* Gallery Committee is requesting nominations for the Gallery of Distinguished Employees by Nov. 27.

This year, as in the past, the committee sent a set of guidelines to all employees to assist in the nomination process.

According to Lloyd C. Caldwell, chief, Construction Division and Gallery Committee chairman, all employees who know someone deserving of this recognition should send a submission. He stressed that the candidates can be from any

organizational level in the District, but they must be retired or deceased employees.

"The Gallery seeks to commemorate those who have made particularly distinguished contributions to the District, regardless of their grade or position," said Caldwell.

Since the 1970s, based on employees' suggestions, 66 people have been inducted into the Gallery, ranging from administrative workers and field personnel to supervisors and division chiefs.

More library resources available through Baltimore's Intranet

Retrieving and using technical data, such as military specifications, construction regulations and federal standards, became easier for Baltimore District starting Nov. 1.

The District recently contracted with Information Handling Services, or IHS, for Internet access to several information products used frequently by engineers.

A link has been set up from the District Intranet page to provide a trouble-free on-ramp to the service.

To access this aid, click on [Baltimore District Intranet](#) in the lower left section of the District web page. At the checkerboard, select [Support Facilities](#), then [District Library](#). Scroll down to [Information Handling Services](#).

"Access through the Intranet provides automatic log-on, which will make it easier to use,"

said Stephen L. Brooks, District library technician.

"We contracted for the products most frequently used by District employees," Brooks said. "The remaining items will be available in the ninth floor library on CD ROM."

The following technical products and services will be available through the Internet link to IHS: military specifications, federal standards, construction regulations, Department of Defense and Army documents and vendor catalogs.

In addition, District employees will also have access to the publications of the American Society of Testing and Materials; the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers; the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Underwriters' Laboratories.

Paperless workplace, two steps closer

Two new systems recently began giving online access to personnel and payroll data.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service launched **Employee/Member Self Service, or E/MSS**, in September. Through it, employees can obtain their leave and earning statements at the E/MSS website, <http://emss.dfas.mil>, on the Monday before payday.

Employees can also make the following types of changes to their civilian payroll records through E/MSS:

- direct deposit alterations, for example—switching banks;
- address changes;
- federal withholding tax adjustments, for example—modifying number of dependents;
- starting and stopping electronic fund transfer allotments.

To keep this payroll information secure, E/MSS requires a personal identification number, commonly called a PIN. Defense employees received temporary PINs in the mail in March. When these are used, employees are prompted to customize their PINs.

Employees who do not know their temporary PIN or have suspended it should fax a request for a new temporary PIN to DFAS at (216) 522-5800.

Give the following information: name, Social Security number, copy of government identification card with photo, daytime phone number and signature.

Two business days following the faxed request, DFAS will have set a

new temporary PIN to the last five numbers of the requestor's Social Security number.

Another new system is designed to give Army civilians direct access to their own retirement portfolios and management of their own benefits transactions without filling out forms.

The Army Benefits Center-Civilian, or ABC-C, started in October. It allows employees to obtain up-to-date information and counseling services online or

over the phone in these areas:

- retirement, both Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees' Retirement System;
- Thrift Savings Plan;
- Federal Employees' Health Benefits;
- Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance;
- survivor benefits.

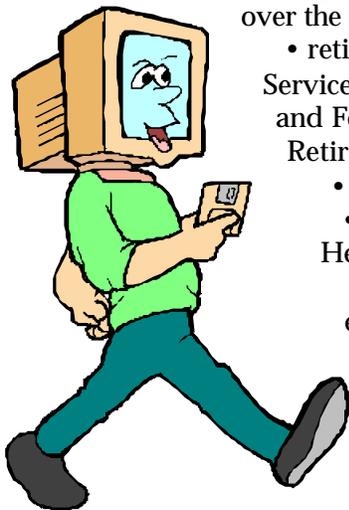
Access to ABC-C is available several ways. It

can be reached through the Internet at www.abc.army.mil or on the District's Intranet checkerboard by clicking on the *Human Resources* square.

It can also be contacted on a touchtone telephone at 1-877-276-9287, or for the hearing impaired at 1-877-276-9833. Both numbers are toll free.

Access to ABC-C requires a Social Security number followed by a PIN. Initially, employees' PINs will be their four-digit date of birth, month and year only.

When individuals access the system, they will be prompted to create a new six-digit PIN to keep their information secure.



News you can use

Angel Tree Program

The 2000 Angel Tree Program runs from Nov. 13 through Dec. 15. Sponsored by the Salvation Army, the program provides gifts for needy children all over the United States.

The Baltimore regional office provides gifts for children in Howard, northern Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, and in Baltimore city.

Last year the Baltimore District contributed gifts for 215 children.

For more information, call Susan Jones at 4675.

Fridays after Five

The National Aquarium in Baltimore is offering admission each Friday after 5 p.m. until March 3 for \$5 per person. Regular admission is \$15 for adults; \$8.50 for children.

The Aquarium features 14,000 aquatic animals representing nearly 600 different species from all over the world.

For more information, call 410-576-3800.

The 34-cent stamp

First class postage will rise from 33 cents to 34 cents for the first ounce on Jan. 1, 2001.

Rates for all other types of U.S. mail will also rise, including express, priority, third and fourth class mail. Does anyone remember the penny postcard?



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



Chris Anuszewski succumbs to cancer

Chris Anuszewski, Design Branch chief at Baltimore District, died Oct. 19 after a long struggle with cancer.

Born in Roanoke, Va., Anuszewski earned her civil engineering degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1975.

She received a master's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

Anuszewski had been a Corps employee for 25 years.

She is survived by her husband, two sons and a daughter.