



## In this issue

page 3  
Move to GAO

page 4  
Corps has a  
weatherman

page 6 & 7  
Raystown  
Lake

page 8  
Focus on a  
retiree

page 10  
Marine safety  
drills

# HQ, USACE moves

by Bernard Tate  
HQ, USACE

For the fifth time since World War II, the Headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has moved to a new location in Washington, D.C.

Last month, Headquarters employees moved from the Casimir Pulaski Building at 20 Massachusetts Ave. N.W. to the third floor of the General Accounting Office Building at 441 G St. N.W.

On Aug. 15, with nearly 70 percent of the move complete, officials of the executive office commemorated the occasion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"As you walk into this building, take a look at the words above the entrance — accountability, integrity, reliability," said Maj. Gen. Russell Fuhrman, acting commander of the Corps of Engineers. "Sound familiar? They're values for GAO, but they are also values of the Corps. So this is a true match for both organizations."

Three long-time Corps employees cut the ribbon. Their collective memory reaches from the Pulaski Building back to the Corps' earlier homes in the Forrestal Building and T-7,



Photo by F.T. Eyre  
James Ballif (l) and Bill Vogel hold the ribbon as Jane Schroth cuts it. This part of the ceremony officially opened the doors to the new HQ, USACE home at the General Accounting Office Building.

a two-story World War II temporary mobilization building.

"T-7 was okay," said Jane Schroth, staff action control officer in the Office of Chief Counsel and a Corps employee since 1961. "It had a cafeteria; it had parking, but it didn't have much around it except National Airport."

"The Forrestal Building was nicer, but it was a real open area," Schroth continued. "After a while they remodeled inside to make it into small, separate offices. It was close to a lot of museums and other places that you could visit during lunch."

This move went much quicker, according to Bill Vogel, deputy chief of Envi-

ronmental Division. Vogel has been with the Corps since 1959 and started out in the Forrestal Building.

"I was in Military Programs at the time, and it took us almost two years... I was told we were moving in September of '78, but we didn't get into the Pulaski Building until June of '80."

"There were several reasons for that," Vogel continued. "Part of it was renovation of the facilities. Part of it had to do with load tests on the third floor for the library. And I think part of it was DoE was just dragging their

*(continued on p. 3, bottom)*



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

### FIRST TEAM

by Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.

I'm calling this article "**FIRST TEAM**" because that is your reputation. During my travels to visit our customers, along with discussions from other senior leaders throughout the Corps of Engineers these first few weeks, I have found a continuing theme in their descriptions of the Baltimore District. These descriptions include respect, responsiveness and reliability. Recognize those? Yes, they are the U. S. Army Corps of Engineer values, and you have built that reputation.

I'm very pleased to join the **FIRST TEAM** and want to thank you for the warm welcome to my family and me. I also wish to thank all of you who contributed to the enormous effort to prepare and conduct the change of command—the ceremony was outstanding and indeed represents something special to our organization. It serves to remind us that we are an agency that represents the U.S. Army, and we should be proud of that!

OK, Colonel—but what

can we expect from you? First off, I won't mess with success, but will only challenge all of you to continue to grow this reputation.

You will get from me the best leadership I can provide—one based on the values that make this organization great. I'm your biggest fan and will continue to work to improve our reputation. However, this organization will only continue to grow and improve if we continue to stress teamwork. We are all in this together and teaming together, along with our customers, contractors and other outside agencies, will only enhance success.

**Along with** teamwork is the requirement to treat all members of the team with dignity and respect—yes, this is a requirement and we all need to live by it. There is no room for those who don't—so don't tolerate it.

We are an agency in the Army, so I will use the chain of command to work issues, but in doing so, I will not become the project engineer, budget analyst or division chief. My lead-

ership style is one of decentralization—I expect you to do your job to the best of your ability, as you should expect from me. I expect leaders to lead and to grow our future leaders.

One of my focuses will be on leader development, and I will continue to challenge our senior leaders to focus on that. In the conduct of that business, don't be satisfied with the status quo.

**We must** operate with a sense of urgency, use sound business practices to provide solid, timely and cost-effective solutions. In the coming months, I will continue to challenge you to be innovative in your approach to solve problems.

We do important work for this region and the nation, and there is always room to find a better way. So go after it!

We are strategically positioned to lead the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and that is the expectation.

As **we** do, so does the rest of the Corps—go out there and continue to build our reputation as the **FIRST TEAM!**

**ESSAYONS!**

# Baltimore's pre-planning helps move to GAO building go smoothly

by Mike Pollis  
Public Affairs Office

Five days after the HQ,USACE move into the General Accounting Office Building in Washington, D.C., began, the trashcans had not arrived, causing a great deal of frustration for everyone.

Finally, on Day Seven the receptacles showed up, and the crisis was over, according to Joe Schaefer, Baltimore District project manager for the move.

With the arrival of the desks, chairs, computers, phones and all the other vital aspects that combine to make a pleasant and productive office, the move had at last become a reality after nearly 20 years of speculation.

"It's been the little things, like trashcans, that have been the most aggravating," said Schaefer.

However, the move, nearly complete, progressed smoothly, thanks to the group's simple, yet effective, balloon strategy. The

move occurred in phases, with one division at a time arriving at the new building.

Using different colored balloons to match the corresponding color on the boxes, District employ-



Employees count chairs that have just arrived.

ees eased the confusion that movers might have had in distributing the office supplies correctly. The balloons have also created a more pleasant and even festive environment as well.

"When the employees came in and saw the balloons, it was like seeing first graders on their first day of school," said Schaefer.

The move from the Pulaski Building, which had housed the Corps headquarters, to the third floor of the GAO building accomplishes two goals by eliminating the bland colors and the separated offices that existed in the former headquarters. The new configuration features a maze of cubicles placed throughout the floor, but there are no actual walls separating the divisions.

Overall, there will be about 800 cubicles, despite the fact that the other floors of the GAO building contain 600 to 650 employees apiece.

However, a total of 43 team rooms equipped with work tables, 12 bathrooms, kitchen facilities, and a coffee bar are located in the new headquarters' workplace.

The GAO building is located only a few blocks from the Metro station. In addition, there are six public parking lots within six blocks of the building.



Maj. Gen. Russell Fuhrman

## HQ,USACE moves to GAO Building *(continued from cover)*

feet." Headquarters was switching buildings with the Department of Energy.

"This move was much, much better," agreed James Ballif, chief of Environmental Support Branch. Ballif has been with the Corps since 1962 and also started out in the Forrestal Building.

"Everything was organized; the office space was set up; the phones worked; my computer worked, and I didn't have anything missing. The move planners did a superb job.

"I thought this would be a

disaster when I heard there would be 900 of us on this floor," Ballif continued. "I thought we'd be jammed in here, but we're not. I'm pleasantly surprised with the quality of the building, and we've got a pretty good location."

The move gives Headquarters less expensive space to meet its long-term needs, but adequate working space for 900 employees in the nearly 195,000 square foot GAO building. Built in 1951, the GAO Building is on the National Registry of Historic Buildings.

# Keeping an eye on the Bay

by Mike Pollis  
Public Affairs Office

Watching the weather forecast on WBAL or WJZ describe the winds in the area as calm, Greg Witmyer of Operations Division can't help but have a good laugh.

Witmyer knows that not too far from these Baltimore weather stations, the Chesapeake Bay can produce much different weather patterns.

Operating his own online weather station from his home on Chesapeake Avenue in Millers Island since July 20, 1999, Witmyer now shares those weather conditions with others. The site offers up to the minute weather conditions on the Bay, including a web camera that posts a new picture of the Bay every 30 seconds.

"You can watch the weather on TV, but the winds are always going to be different on the Bay, so my site offers boaters and anyone interested a chance to quickly view the conditions," said Witmyer.

Witmyer takes his readings with a Davis Instrument wireless weather system which measures wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, dew point, barometric pressure and



Greg Witmyer

rainfall. The wind speed and direction are updated every five minutes, while the web cam is updated every 30 seconds.

The site has received a great many hits, and a look at the guestbook is evidence of the overwhelming positive feedback it has received.

"Super job on the site!" writes Tom Conroy of Operations. "This is an absolute must for anyone who spends time on the Bay—the true wind information that the landbound TV stations can't predict. The links were well chosen."

"Nice web site," adds Walter Sowa of Millers Island. "I

stumbled on it while I was out of town and home sick."

"A lot of people who used to live on the Bay and have since moved away seem to really enjoy the site," said Witmyer.

"I guess it allows them to take a little bit of the Chesapeake with them."

Witmyer, an avid boater, jet skier and fisherman, has always had a love for the water and a fascination with the weather.

"Weather has always been a great interest of mine, and now modern technology makes it so much easier and more interesting to explore," said Witmyer.

A graduate of Dundalk High school in 1982 and Dundalk Community College in 1986, Witmyer has lived around the Bay his entire life.

Witmyer has worked in the Baltimore District since June 1986 and is currently in the Operations Division. His primary duties are as senior survey technician onboard the survey boat Linthicum, which performs hydrographic surveys of the Baltimore Harbor and its approach channels.

To visit his website, go to [http://members.home.net/millersismdwx/millers\\_island\\_md.htm](http://members.home.net/millersismdwx/millers_island_md.htm)

## *That old 'Nobody' story*

This is a story about four people, named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done, and Every-

body was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about this, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody

could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done. It happens.

# Flanigan takes over as civil works deputy

by Mary Beth Thompson  
Public Affairs Office

The new deputy district engineer for civil works considers himself a reformed workaholic. The soon-to-be-promoted Maj. W. Scott Flanigan said he used to place too much emphasis on work. He's altered his ways, but that doesn't mean he gives his job less than its due.

"I try very hard to keep balance in my life," Flanigan said. "It's important to work hard, but it's important to play hard, too."

Flanigan, who began his duties at Baltimore District in August, is excited about his new assignment. In his last job, as operations officer for the 27<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C., he was responsible for planning and resourcing almost everything the battalion did.

"A minority of my time was spent on engineering," Flanigan said. "I'm excited about the opportunity to get back into the engineering and construction business on a full-time basis."

The quality of life and the

opportunities of the Baltimore area appeal to him and his wife, Sonja. Their new home at Aberdeen Proving Ground gives them ready access to the Mid-Atlantic region and all that it offers,



Maj. (P) W. Scott Flanigan

including the downhill skiing, running and traveling he enjoys in his "play-hard" mode.

Flanigan's prior assignments in Germany, Japan and North Carolina have kept them at a distance from relatives. The proximity of her parents in Alexandria, Va., and his family in Marshfield, Mass., will allow grandparents and extended

family a more integral role in the lives of the Flanigans' two daughters, Katherine, 4, and Kristen, 2.

During another Fort Bragg assignment, Flanigan was a project engineer for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and a Corps customer.

"I have a valuable perspective of what it is to be on the other side of the fence," he said.

Flanigan gained solid field experience as resident engineer at Yokota Air Base in the Corps' Japan Engineer District from 1994-97.

As for his new job, Flanigan serves as the commander's representative overseeing the District's civil works program, which fulfills the "work-hard" part of his philosophy. He also acts as the chief of staff handling routine staff functions and supervising certain offices.

"I'm very excited at the opportunity to be part of the Baltimore District," Flanigan said. "I'm looking forward to visiting the District offices and getting to know the people."

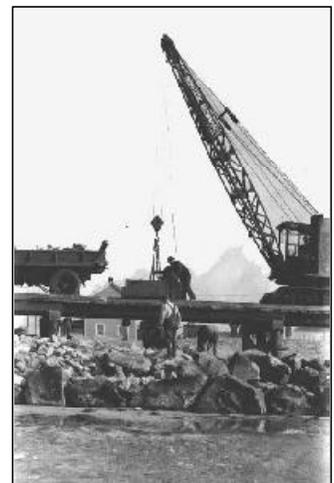
## Baltimore District history quiz

Select the caption that correctly describes this photograph.

- Texas oilmen set up a derrick and drill for oil right through the world famous boardwalk at Atlantic City, N.J.
- Workmen remove rock from a building site in Baltimore so that the foundation can be dug for the new City Crescent Building.
- Moon rocks, which had been dumped near Cape Canaveral by the first lunar rover, are moved to a truck so that they can be hauled to the Smithsonian.
- Baltimore District uses a trestle to build stone jetties at Ocean City, Md., to protect a 10-foot deep inlet it was constructing between the Atlantic Ocean and Sinepuxent Bay in 1933.

In doubt? Call Public Affairs, 410-962-4088.

Photo from Baltimore District Archives



# Summer hires handle influx of visitors, learn useful know-how

Story and photos  
by Mary Beth Thompson  
Public Affairs Office

Each year, Raystown Lake, a premier Corps project in Pennsylvania, hires 12 to 14 seasonal rangers to help enforce the rules and assist the many campers, boaters, swimmers, picnickers, hikers and fishermen who swell the visitor numbers there during the summer.

"It's an essential program for us as managers and very beneficial for the summer rangers, too," said lead ranger Jude T. Harrington. "Most are college students interested in careers in law enforcement, parks and recreation, or resource protection. They gain valuable experience, and we have extra help during our busiest time."

The temporary rangers wear the same uniform as the permanent ranger staff. They patrol the campgrounds and control the crowded boat launches. Although the program is not limited to college students, most attend colleges in the region.

One seasonal ranger performs resource management work in



Devin Foor

forestry, fishery, wildlife and environmental compliance. This ranger typically starts in early March. Others start in the second week of May when the visitor count begins to rise. Most arrive at the end of the school year and depart at the beginning of the next. A few stay through September.

"Dealing with irate visitors who don't like the rules is the most difficult," said Devin Foor, a park and recreation management major from Pennsylvania State University who is spending his second summer at Raystown. Foor has found that discussion works best to calm an angry customer.

Michael Kelly, a recent graduate of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania who is in his third summer at Raystown, also finds it less-than-pleasant to confront visitors who aren't following the rules.

"Putting my foot down is the hardest part for me," Kelly said.

It's a credit to these young rangers that they learn to handle uncooperative visitors with tact and skill.

"School gives you the management part, the background," Foor, a native of Breezewood, Pa., said, "but that's not all there is. Here you learn how to deal with people."

Despite the challenges that they seem to take in stride, these summer rangers have found the work rewarding. Foor and Kelly said they like meeting and talking with a lot of different people from many places.

"For every bad interaction you have with a visitor," Kelly said, "there are so many more who come up to you and are just very nice."

As might be expected, both rangers also enjoy spending time outdoors. They each spoke about "walking the boundary," and it

was clear from their almost-reverent words and tone that this is a task they find truly enjoyable.

They spend the month of September walking half of the nearly 80 miles of project boundary line to inspect for encroachments on government property. It's hot, strenuous work, often requiring uphill climbs carrying the entire day's supplies. They love it.

Seasonal rangers also spend time improving the trails in the fall.



Mike Kelly

Kelly, who is from Burnt Cabin, Pa., spent his first year at Raystown in an unpaid internship as part of his study of parks, recreation and natural resource management. He designed a hiking trail path where none had existed.

The well-forested Terrace Mountain flanks the eastern edge of 28-mile-long Raystown Lake. The Terrace Mountain Hiking Trail had covered only 18 of those miles until Kelly spent a summer on the mountain marking out another 10 miles of hiking path to extend the trail to the northern end of the lake. He still coordinates the volunteer groups who are clearing the virgin track.

# Bald eagles nest at Raystown

by Mary Beth Thompson  
Public Affairs Office

Just as light peeks over the forested slopes surrounding Raystown Lake dam, the cries of three hungry eagle fledglings break the morning peace. They are notifying their mother that it's time for breakfast.

The fledglings provide Raystown's two dam tenders, who live in houses next to the dam, with a reliable, if not always desirable, wake-up service. Head dam tender Ken Honstine pointed out the pine trees on the slope below the houses that the young bald eagles favor at dawn.

"They holler until their mom feeds them," Honstine said. He described how she goes fishing and returns with one fish. Then the fledglings' individual personalities assert themselves in almost comical fashion as they go after their meal. Two drag the fish from here to there, while the other sits on a nearby fence and watches for the right moment for intervention.

"The mother just stays back, keeps an eye on their antics and lets them work it out," he said.

Honstine and his assistant, Mike Kann, complained good naturedly about being awakened each morning by the noisy birds. But it's clear from their wry observations that they view the bald eagles as engaging neigh-

bors deserving of their concern and interest.

In fact, the entire Raystown staff seems to take special pride in their bald eagle family. They know of places that the eagles like to perch—on the breast of the dam or a certain fence. They observe the birds, but don't interfere in their activities.



*Photo by Devin Foor*  
A four-month-old bald eagle fledgling perches on a mountain slope above Raystown Dam.

"This is the second year we've had bald eagles nest at Raystown," said Jeff Krause, wildlife biologist, who monitors Raystown Lake's eagles. "Previous activities were primarily during winter when each year we have six to eight bald eagles stop by to feed."

The federal government lists bald eagles as "threatened," and the state lists them as "endangered." The Corps and the Pennsylvania Game Commission have taken measures to shield the eagles from human disturbance.

Buoys marking a small part of the huge lake off limits were placed from March to mid-Au-

gust to keep boats out of the area below the nesting site.

Above the nest, signs along a road leading to a popular overlook warn visitors of a fine for entering the woods and disturbing the nest below. The area surrounding the nesting site is exempt from annual gypsy moth spraying, and the military

has identified it as a noise sensitive area to reduce the impact from aircraft flying over.

Krause and fellow biologist Matthew Hoff monitor the nest with a spotting scope to observe activity up close.

"The most exciting moment was the hatching of the third eaglet, which occurred a week later than its siblings," Krause said. He described another

moment of surprise when the adults, who routinely bring fish for the young eagles' meals, delivered a Canada goose to the nest.

The cooperative efforts of the agencies and the public to enhance nesting success have been effective. All three young eagles have survived, are growing rapidly and appear to be healthy.

Raystown Lake's bald eagles swoop and glide above the mountain's green slopes, the dam's red rock banks and gray spillways and the lake's crystal blue surface, unaware of the special attention paid them by the humans below.

# A 'distinguished' retiree

by Mike Pollis  
Public Affairs Office

If retirement is all about sitting back and relaxing, mixed in with the occasional round of golf, then John Starr certainly breaks the mold.

Since retiring from the Baltimore District in 1970 after serving as chief of Planning and in other capacities during his 34 years with the Corps, Starr has not slowed down a bit.

Immediately after retiring, he and his wife, Elizabeth, began a tradition they would continue virtually every year thereafter—traveling to London. From London, the couple took a boat train to Paris and ventured out on a 30-day trip all over Europe.

"There is very little of England that we didn't visit over the years," said Starr. "We didn't go on any guided tours, though. Everything was done on our own."

Another highlight from the many trips to Europe was a trek high in the Swiss Alps, where Starr couldn't help but admire the construction of railroads at such elevations, a sight he described as a "wonderful engineering feat."

**"Traveling gave us a** wonderful opportunity to see some of the most beautiful and fascinating parts of the world while allowing me to spend time with my wife, whom I had been away from so much because of going to the office every day, year after year," said Starr.

Starr's retirement from Baltimore District surely did not signal the end to his contributions to enhancing engineering and environmental studies. Assisting with

a United Nations' study that examined the quality of water in third world countries, Starr wrote a 250-page report in "easy-to-understand English." Starr also assisted with a 1976 study of the Potomac River.

Writing also became a great hobby for Starr. Starting with a letter to the editor of the Baltimore *Sun*, he went on to publish over 550 articles, mostly book reviews.

**Beginning in 1936** as a survey man on the Nanticoke River, Starr went on to work on such major projects as the construction of the Alvin R. Bush Dam, the challenges of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, and the construction of the 50-foot channel into the Baltimore Harbor. He also assisted the Corps efforts in World War II.

"When I was asked about the financing for the construction of the channel," recalled Starr, "I told the general that I had two projects that year—the harbor and the marriage of my oldest daughter. So I instructed the project managers, Al Nelson on the harbor job and my wife on my daughter's wedding, to do the best job possible and not tell me how much they cost."

One of the highlights of Starr's career was escorting a new district engineer during his initial days in the district. "For some reason, it just became my job to take each new district engineer around to see the key places and meet the key people within the Baltimore District's boundaries."

"The colonel may not have remembered all the people he met, but they would remember him."



John Starr and wife, Elizabeth, at his retirement luncheon in 1970.

This served as a means for Starr to meet many interesting people and develop strong friendships that lasted well beyond his time spent working with them.

Starr was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees in 1973.

Born in Baltimore on June 2, 1902, Starr attended Poly High School and then Johns Hopkins for both his undergraduate and graduate work. He later organized a program that enabled a group of engineers from the District to gather two nights and one afternoon a week for a seminar toward a master's degree.

**In the past 14 years**, Starr has undergone two separate surgeries that have removed over 15 inches of his colon. "Now, I just have a semi-colon," said Starr with a laugh.

Starr, now 91, lives in the Ellcrest retirement community in Baltimore County and shows absolutely no signs of slowing down. He continues writing for the community's monthly newspaper. "The key is just staying active. Retirement should never mean just sitting on your butt watching television," he said.

# Real (estate) courtesy on display

by Mike Pollis  
Public Affairs Office

"I was always taught that if you're nice to someone, they will be nice to you in return," said Melanie Hacker, staff assistant in Real Estate Division.

It is this friendly, helpful attitude that has earned Hacker the September Courteous Employee of the Month award.

"I was surprised when I found out I got the award, but I am very pleased," said Hacker.

Hacker has worked in the Baltimore District for 11 years and with the government for a total of 19 years. She spent six years in Operations and has worked in Real Estate for the past five.

"I have always been blessed to work with a great group of people," said Hacker.

"The people really make it easy to be nice."

Hacker interacts with all her fellow employees as well as answering many phone calls each day, so her courteous attitude is like a ray of sunshine in the office, according to her co-workers.

Hacker's main duties consist of taking care of all the personnel actions for the Real Estate Division.

"Melanie is a person who knows how to take care of other people," said Real Estate Chief James Turkel.

In offering advice to others on being courteous, Hacker simply states, "Do unto others as you would have done to you."

Hacker attributes her courteous attitude to the influences of her mother and father, Gerry Boggs, the former chief of Real Estate.

With two kids, ages 3 and 7, Hacker works three days a week

and spends two days with her children.

"I have the best of both worlds," said Hacker.

"I've found the perfect balance because I get to interact with adults and my kids every week."

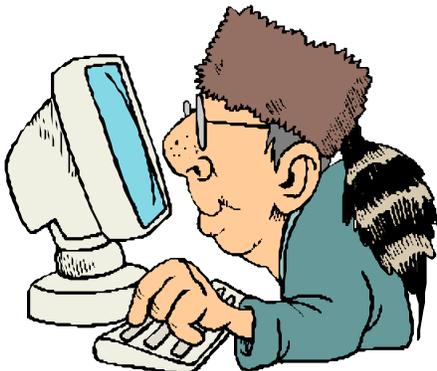


Melanie Hacker

## Caught on the Web

Are you curious about what the headlines were at the time you were born? Who was the U.S. president? What were the top songs and movies? Find out by keying in <http://dmarie.com/asp/history.asp?action=process>. Enter your birth date or another date you'd like to research, and the site will answer those questions. It also gives sports headlines, average income and the price of a home, a car and other common products.

To go beyond your birth date into your ancestral history, start with the National Genealogical



Society site at

[www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org). Another useful site, [www.cindislist.com](http://www.cindislist.com), provides a listing of and connection to dozens of genealogy sites that offer services, along with the fees they charge.

If you are looking for a high school classmate, try [www.classmates.com](http://www.classmates.com). Other functional people locator sites are <http://home.netscape.com/netcenter/whitepages.html>, [www.whowhere.com](http://www.whowhere.com) and [www.theultimates.com](http://www.theultimates.com).

## District celebrates completion of jetty

Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., Baltimore District commander, participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony Aug. 28 commemorating the completion of a jetty for protection of an existing federal navigation channel at Neale Sound.

Neale Sound is located at the confluence of the Potomac and Wicomico Rivers between Cobb Island and the mainland of Charles County, Md., about 40 miles upstream from the Chesapeake Bay.

There are two channels in the area. The lower channel requires no maintenance, but the upper channel has experienced shoal-

ing problems that have severely limited the activities of about 50 commercial watermen and hundreds of recreational boaters.

A feasibility study completed in 1997 concluded that a stone jetty would provide adequate protection to the channel. The project began in October 1999, at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million.

Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, Maryland's senior senator, and other state and local dignitaries spoke on behalf of the Corps' work and how the project will provide protection to the channel and, once again, allow unrestricted commercial and recreational use of the waters.

### Operations Division

#### ***Linthicum crew practice marine safety drills***

Crewmembers from the District's survey vessel Linthicum got wet Aug. 10 as they conducted marine safety drills near Hart Miller Island in Chesapeake Bay.

The goal of the drills was to familiarize the crew with handling emergency situations that could occur on the water.

The crew shot off rocket flares from the deck, practiced ways to improve visibility in the water and used the boat's life sling to rehearse rescuing someone from the sea. They also discussed use of the marine radio. For the first time, they pulled the cord to open a life raft.

"We got a feel for how it opens and how to right one in the water," said Tom Conroy, captain of the Linthicum. "We haven't been able to do that

before. We also practiced climbing into it from the water and jumping into it from the deck."

Marine safety drills are part of ongoing annual training for the crewmembers.



*Photo by Tex Jobe*  
Linthicum crewmembers Tony Sazaklis and Greg Witmyer work to turn over a life raft during marine safety drills in the Chesapeake.

### ***District goes to MACo***

Baltimore District once again participated in the annual summer conference of the Maryland Association of Counties in the Ocean City Convention Center, Aug. 17-19.

The "Corps at work in Maryland" was the theme of this year's exhibit, which featured Corps projects that are helping the environment and quality of life.

The exhibit addressed how the District is supporting navigation through its dredging of the Chesapeake Bay channels, is using dredged material to rebuild Poplar island and is constructing a bulkhead to save Smith Island. The exhibit also mentioned the Corps' efforts to help with the oyster recovery program and the projects designed to improve the health of streams and watersheds.

Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., district engineer; Lt. Col. Gregory E. Stinner, deputy district engineer for military programs; Charles Walker, government affairs officer; Kathy Blagburn, a biologist from Operations Division; and Doug Garman, public affairs specialist; represented the District at the conference.

The two-day event included workshops and special programs focused on building better partnerships with the Maryland communities.

## Honor your grandparents on their day

Sept. 10 is the day designated to honor your grandparents. Though Grandparents Day is a relatively new event, grandmothers and grandfathers will be waiting to see if you remember them. Public observations are held in many cities, but surveys show that what's most appreciated is a call, card, gift or visit from their grandchildren.

Grandparents Day was first proclaimed by the governor of West Virginia in 1973. Then five years later, Congress officially named the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day. President Jimmy Carter signed the proclamation, and September was chosen for the holiday to signify the "autumn years" of life.

The goals of Grandparents Day are:

- To honor grandparents.
- To give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their grandchildren.
- To help children become

aware of the strength, insight and guidance older people can offer.

It is estimated that up to 6 percent of children live in their grandparents' homes. Some live with one or both grandparents and one parent. Some live with just one grandparent. In 1997, the census bureau reported that 1 million children lived only with a grandmother; 150,000 lived only with a grandfather.

If you hold a family gathering, encourage grandparents to tell stories about family history. If you have access to a video camera, record it. They and the history will be gone all too soon.



## Permanent Flexiplace to be a reality

As one of his last official acts as Baltimore district engineer, Col. Bruce A. Berwick signed a memorandum on July 27 making Flexiplace a permanent program in the District.

The memo emphasized that Flexiplace is a privilege, not a right for employees. In order for it to be successful, Flexiplace cannot adversely impact the District's mission and customers, both internal and external.

The program will not be implemented until the first week in October because it will be necessary for all participants and

their supervisors to go through a training program.

The purpose of the training is to ensure that everyone is fully aware of the guidelines because changes have been made since the pilot program began.

The current pilot program guidelines will remain in effect until the new permanent program is implemented.

For further information, contact Lacy Evans, X-6018; Lisa Ziomek, X-3132; Woody Francis, X-5689; Denise Davis, X-7629; or Stephanie Krecz, X-4664.

## News you can use

### EAA

**2000 Entertainment coupon books**—Available now; cost is \$25.

**Maryland Renaissance Festival**—Saturdays and Sundays, Labor Day thru Oct. 22; 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Crownsville, Md. Discounted tickets: adults, 16+, \$11; children, 7-15, \$5; under 6, free. Enjoy feasting, musicians, performers, jousting, a visit by King Henry VII and Queen Katherine of Aragon, and more. Artisans will have handcrafted wares for sale, too.

Contact Angie Blizzard at X-4649 for books or tickets.

### New chief nominated

The president has nominated Maj. Gen. Robert B. Flowers for appointment to lieutenant general and chief of engineers.

This appointment requires confirmation by the U.S. Senate, which is in recess until after Labor Day.

### Citizenship Day

Originally, Sept. 17 was observed as Constitution Day, because it was on this day in 1787 that the U.S. Constitution was signed.

On Feb. 29, 1952, President Harry Truman changed the name to Citizenship Day, a day to be celebrated by individuals and patriotic groups with special events.





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Baltimore District  
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Official Business

## Why Labor Day is important

The great treasure of America is not in the land. Nor is it the gold at Fort Knox. The millions of skilled people that make up this country are the real treasure.

Without them, nothing would be invented or built. If it were not for this army of working people, America would come to a standstill overnight.

The value of knowledgeable and skilled people can be seen

immediately when you think about developing countries. They may have plenty of intellectuals, but they are short of carpenters, mechanics, engineers, secretaries, electricians, and all the other kinds of skilled people who make this country great.

On this Labor Day take time to salute working people whatever their jobs may be. They are the body and soul of America.

