



Work begins on Brewerton Channel

by Marshall Hudson
Public Affairs Office

With the goal of improving the efficiency of shipping operations throughout the Port of Baltimore, construction began on April 12 to widen the Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension.

The 450-foot channel is being widened to 600 feet to lessen the amount of time ships spend getting in and out of the port of Baltimore, thus lowering the operating and pilotage costs to shippers.

"The costs of shipping are passed on in the price of the goods shipped," said regional economist Clifford J. Kidd.

"Reducing those costs is good for the American consumer."

The Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension is five miles long and runs approximately east-west across the Chesapeake Bay. It connects the port to the channels that run to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

"Widening the channel is a good project because it is so clearly in the nation's interest," said Scott Johnson, project manager. "There are no significant environmental impacts. It will save the shippers far more money than it will cost, and most

importantly, it will improve safety in the bay."

A study by the Waterways Experiment Station showed that widening the channel would make it safer than at its current width. Pilots from the Association of Maryland Pilots were tested in virtual reality simulations navigating representative ships under various weather and tidal conditions. The results showed that a channel width of 600 feet reduced the chance of mishaps.

The project requires the removal of approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of clean dredged material, which is being placed at the Poplar Island Environmental Restoration project site.

The Poplar Island project is the restoration of an island in the Chesapeake Bay that had been allowed to erode almost completely away. It is being restored to its approximate 1847 size of

1,140 acres. When complete, the island will be half upland wildlife habitat and half intertidal wetlands.

Widening the channel will also help to keep the port competitive and ensure jobs will not be lost in the area, according to Judi Scioli, spokeswoman for the Maryland Port Administration.

"The Port of Baltimore is a significant economic engine for the entire region, generating \$1.4 billion in revenue annually and employing nearly 126,700 Marylanders," she said.

Congress authorized the 600-foot width as part of the River and Harbor Act of 1958. It was never dredged to its authorized width because of funding constraints.

In 1993, the Maryland Port Administration requested the channel be widened to its authorized width. In October

1997 the Corps re-evaluated the widening and determined that it was still in the federal interest to proceed with the project.

The work is scheduled for completion later this summer.

For more information on the project, visit the District site at <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/Maryland/Brewerton/index.html>.



The Brewerton Channel was widened and deepened in 1986.



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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

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Commander's Comment

The Corps' Vision

by Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.
Commander & District Engineer

It was a great experience to meet and talk with you about the chief's new Vision for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last month. The brochure you received includes statements about the purpose, mission, vision and the strategic goals of the Corps.

I'd like to reiterate and reinforce here the message you heard. In a comprehensive yet compact way, the chief has spelled out what he wants the Corps to achieve.

Our stated **purpose**—serving the Army and the nation—tells us why we, as an agency, exist. We can expect that the chief will make decisions for the Corps based on this simply stated purpose.

We all know that the Corps has vast and far-reaching responsibilities. For the average employee, defining those responsibilities can be difficult. The **mission** portion of the Vision brochure describes the Corps' complex operations from peace to war.

The **Vision** statement itself explains in two basic sentences the desired end state for the Corps. They sum up what you and I should be working toward—serving the nation as the world's premier public engineering organiza-

tion, and providing the full spectrum of engineering services with high quality, dedicated people.

To achieve that vision, the chief has set three **strategic goals**. He wants Corps **people** to work in **teams** and be technically and professionally excellent. He wants us to use the Project Management Business **Process** to operate regionally and deliver quality products. And he wants us to treat **communication** as an important key to accomplishing our work.

The remainder of the Vision brochure provides tools that may help each of us in achieving these goals. The permission statement, the list of Army values and Stephen R. Covey's definition of synergy provide advice and guidance for success.

I'll shift gears here to ask the question: **What does the Vision give to you as an individual Corps employee?**

On a general level, it provides answers to questions about the Corps you may be asked, and guidance on issues that may be unclear to you. It spells out goals we should strive to achieve and unites the Corps with a clear objective.

The other side of the question is: **What can you, as an individual employee, give toward realizing the Vision?**

Maybe it's putting a smile in your voice when you answer the phone. Maybe it's making sure the phone is answered promptly and courteously.

Maybe it's going the extra mile for a difficult customer. Maybe it's making one more call to ensure everything is in order for a contractor meeting.

Maybe it's organizing training for the people you supervise. Maybe it's reorganizing the office to run more efficiently. Maybe it's reorganizing the supply cabinet.

Maybe it's a more helpful and cooperative attitude. Maybe it's criticizing the work and shortcomings of others less often.

Maybe it's elevating a problem that needs higher-level attention. Maybe it's backing your employee on a tough situation. Maybe it's mentoring young folks.

From clerk to chief, we each have duties and responsibilities. Doing them as well as we can, and then doing them better, is what we can give to achieving the vision.

See yourself as part of the Vision—as an essential component of the effort of striving to be the best engineering organization in the world. Then act on your vision — you already have your permission card.

Essays.

EAP, resource in times of need

Counseling, advice, referral for federal employees, dependents

by Marshall Hudson
Public Affairs Office

The Employee Assistance Program gives federal workers and their dependents a place where they can get short term counseling, assessment and referral services for a multitude of issues.

The program provides resources to cope with life's difficulties and to balance work and family.

The counselors can assist with problems based on stress, anxiety, depression, relationship, family, alcohol, gambling, drug, or job concerns.

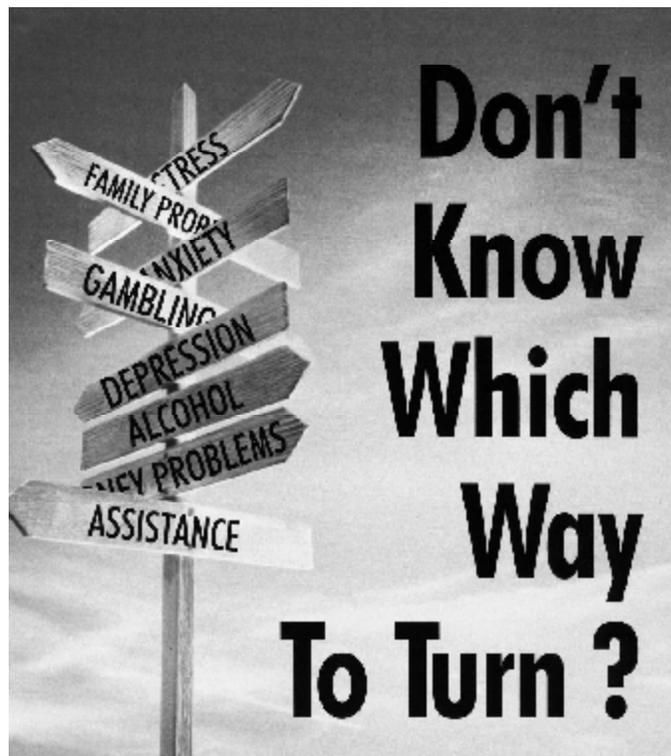
The new contractor, Magellan Behavioral Health, has also just added referral services for financial and legal concerns.

The counselors all have a master's degree or above in a field of psychology or social work and at least three years of experience in the field, said Laura Troxell, of the Baltimore EAP office.

"Some even have their own private practices. These are the same types of people

you would see if you were referred to a counselor by your health plan," she said.

The program is



sponsored by Federal Occupational Health, a division of the United States Health and Human Services Department.

"It has become a benefit because it helps everyone. It provides health and wellness for the employees, their dependents and the organization," said Troxell.

"Employees who are happy are more focused, so the employer gets optimal productivity and conduct. The employees get a healthy workplace, both individually and for us all as a group," she said.

that they might need help or advice should go ahead and make that first call.

"People want to solve their own problems, but at times we all need support, and it can be helpful to talk with someone who is objective. It can really make a difference," she said.

If the EAP counselor understands the problem to be a longer term need, she will help find affordable care and even recommend specific providers in the areas concerned.

Long-term counseling is then paid for through regular health insurance, or a lower cost referral is provided.

EAP services are confidential within the limits of the law. Counselors review the confidentiality policy during the employee's first visit.

To contact EAP call 1-800-222-0364.

The counselor is on site Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Baltimore City Crescent building. Walk-ins are welcome at the Health Desk in room 2220.

Visit <http://www.foh.dhhs.gov> for more information.

All of the program's services are free to federal employees and their dependents. The service remains free until the person is referred out of the program. Designed to be a short-term program, the counselors may provide up to six sessions at no cost.

Troxell stressed that anyone who thought

Army dreams of grunt of the future

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Dressed all in black, Army Sgt.

Joseph Patterson looks like he stepped from the pages of a science fiction book depicting future warfare.

Patterson recently demonstrated some advanced concepts for outfitting infantrymen to members of Congress and their staffs. Patterson is part of the Soldier Support Center in Natick, Mass.

"This is the equivalent of a concept car for infantrymen," he said. "We're taking a look at every idea and asking, what possibly could make my life great?"

Do you want one uniform for all climates? This prototype has a built-in heating or cooling system. The outfit is interlaced with tubes.

"You cool the bodysuit or heat it depending on the core body temperature," Patterson said.

Do you want a read-out on what your condition is? This outfit has built-in monitors that check heartbeat, breathing and hydration. It also will monitor sleep and gauge your combat stress. Not only does the service member have the information, but the commander does also.

Need an integrated communications and data system?

"We're going to have body-borne antennas, so no more of

those long antennas sticking up," he said.

"We're going to have a chameleon uniform that changes color depending on where you are. It'll be an arctic, jungle or desert uniform as needed."

Not having to carry extra gear, such as field jackets or rain gear, lightens the load.

"Backpacks will no longer be needed except for food, extra ammo and water," he said.

"We're actually going to carry just mission-specific items and none of what we call 'snivel gear.' So we don't have our cold weather gear, our wet weather suits, our chemical-biological protection — it's all integrated into one suit."

Patterson's black suit included body armor and integrated his weapon in a helmet-mounted heads-up display.

"The display is on the helmet visor. On the top, we'll have an embedded sensor suite with night vision and thermal sights," he said.

"We'll be able to see 360 degrees, everyone knows where each other is through combat identification, and you can link to everyone and transmit real-time data directly to their heads-up displays."



(Photo by Gerry J. Gilmore)

Army Sgt. Joseph Patterson models the Future Warrior Vision outfit. The suit features body armor and integrated systems for cooling and heating, stress monitoring and communications.

All of this may sound like a page out of "Starship Troopers," but it could happen.

"We can't do these things now, but we should be able to make the technology work in the near future," Patterson said. "It's a chance to push the envelope."

Army turns 226 June 14; Corps on June 16

The Army's birth dates to June 14, 1775. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as a whole, traces its history back to June 16, 1775, when the Continental Congress adopted a resolution providing the "Grand Army" with one

chief engineer and two assistants.

Gen. George Washington selected Col. Richard Gridley of Massachusetts as the first chief engineer. Engineers and companies of sappers played a key

role during the Revolutionary War. By the end of the war, the Corps had mustered out of service, but in 1802, was permanently reestablished along with the founding of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Courtesy is just a part of her nature

by Marshall Hudson
Public Affairs

Nawal Shafik, a budget assistant with PPMD's Environmental Project Management Branch, doesn't think about being good natured and courteous; she just is.



Nawal Shafik

It is that good nature that has made her the Courtesy Employee of the Month for June.

"Nawal always has a cheerful smile on her face," said Gerald M. Pollis, Shafik's supervisor and chief of the branch. "She is not only dedicated to getting the job done, she does it bubbling over with excitement."

"It's my nature to be nice when I do my job. I like to deal with numbers and with people," said Shafik.

Shafik has been in the Baltimore District for nine years. Before coming here, she worked for two years at the Bluegrass Army Depot, Lexington, Ky.

Shafik has a bachelor's

degree in accounting from the University of Commerce, Essiut, Egypt, but she didn't know much about being a budget assistant when she started.

"I started from scratch," she said, "but I've worked hard and have learned so much here."

Shafik said her tasks are made easier by her work environment.

"The people I work with provide wonderful fellowship," she said.

Shafik had special praise for her boss.

"Gerry Pollis is excellent, both to work for and for creating a good environment for people to be happy."

When she's not at work, Shafik prefers to

be with her children. Her daughter Christina attends Towson University and her son John Paul will start there on an academic scholarship next fall.

She said she most prefers to be outdoors, and her pastimes are cooking, keeping up her home and attending church.

She also occasionally watches Egyptian television from her home satellite dish.

Shafik said she gets past difficult times by trying not to dwell on negative things.

"Whatever happens, I try to put it behind me and always look to the future," she said.

Baltimore District history quiz

Select the caption that correctly describes this photograph.

a. One of the actresses from the movie *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* examines a torn piece of fabric that fell on the ground during filming.

b. An incredible giant honeycomb is believed to be the home of the real queen bee.

c. A young girl watches incredulously as several snakes march in formation.

d. During construction of the Corps' Jennings Randolph Lake on the North Branch of the Potomac River, this "waffle rock" was uncovered. The geometric pattern was created over a period of 300 million years of folding, fracturing and weathering of the rock.

Call 410-962-2809 if you need help.



Many historians call 1941 the greatest year in American baseball.

Red Sox hitter Ted Williams finished the season with a .406 batting average, and Joe DiMaggio had a 56-game hitting streak for the Yankees.

Both Williams and DiMaggio were in their prime, and 1942 promised to be an even better year. War intervened. Williams became a Marine pilot, DiMaggio went into the Army, and Cleveland Indians pitcher Bob Feller enlisted in the Navy.

Hundreds of professional players left the major leagues to serve their country. Negro League star Jackie Robinson, who in 1947 became the first black player in the major leagues, served in the Army.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt felt baseball should continue during the war. Major league owners adjusted and scrambled to find replacements. Retired players came back, and other players were healthy enough to play, but not physically fit enough to enter the military.

Baseball during the war years was strange. One measure was that the perennial doormat St. Louis Browns won the American League pennant in 1944. They lost the World Series to the St. Louis Cardinals in five games. The Chicago Cubs won the National League pennant in 1945 (and not again since) and lost the World Series to Detroit.

The war also hit the entertainment industry hard. Box office stars enlisted in droves. "The King," Clark Gable, was an Air Corps officer, as was Jimmy Stewart, who initially enlisted, became a B-17 pilot and flew missions over Germany. Tyrone Power enlisted in the Marine

LIGHTS, CAMERA, PLAY BALL!

Corps, and Henry Fonda served aboard destroyers in the Pacific.

Big band leader Glenn Miller organized and conducted the Air Force Band in Europe and died in a plane crash over the English Channel.

The stars came marching home once the Germans and Japanese surrendered in 1945.

By 1946, DiMaggio was back in Yankee pinstripes. In 1947, Williams was back in the groove, winning the American League's Triple Crown — highest batting average, most home runs, most runs batted in. Bob Feller led the American League in strikeouts in 1946, 1947 and 1948.

The box office stars came back to a changed world. Gable, who enlisted at 41, remained a big star but never attained the height of *Gone With the Wind* again.

Jimmy Stewart, who stayed in the reserve and eventually rose to Air Force brigadier general, was thought washed up until *It's a Wonderful Life*,

now a perennial Christmas favorite, ignited his comeback. Henry Fonda starred in "Mr. Roberts" on Broadway and later in the movie with James Cagney.

Television was in its infancy following the war, but each year more Americans bought sets.

Baseball telecasts became a staple for early TV stations. Television worked against movies, though. Before the war, many Americans went to local movie theaters at least once a week.

Television cut into that audience, and by the early 1950s, the movie industry was running scared and trying to regain viewers.

But for the first few years after World War II, at least, there was a glow. The United States was the most powerful nation on Earth, and had just won the greatest war in history, and the economy was booming. Sports and entertainment stars helped keep this glow going. It was truly a "Golden Era."

- American Forces Information Service





Photos by Susanne Bledsoe

Top: A view of the top of the finished floodwall and levee.
Bottom: Two walkers stroll along the top of the Forty Fort levee.

Corps participates in Forty Fort ceremony to celebrate improved levee, floodwall

by Doug Garman

Against the backdrop of the Susquehanna River, residents of Swoyersville and Forty Fort, Pa. joined federal, state and local officials in a special ceremony May 14 to celebrate the completion of the Forty Fort reach of the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project.

In 1997, the Corps and the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority began the effort to improve the level of flood protection in these communities by

raising the area's existing levee and floodwall.

This effort involved raising the levee and floodwall three to five feet, construction of a new embankment, installation and concrete capping of new sheet piling, capping existing sheet piling and modifications to several drainage structures.

To go hand-in-hand with these structural improvements, officials incorporated several aesthetic and recreational improvements into the project.

Among these were benches, paved trails on the levee crest, educational kiosks, trees and other landscaping features.

Recent local newspaper reports on the project have praised the project's recreational features and the benefits they provide to the nearby communities.

The Forty Fort reach is the second major phase of construction to be completed as part of the \$175 million Wyoming Valley project.

Next year start for second phase of project

The project's Exeter reach was completed last year. Work is under way for the Kingston-Edwardsville levee, the Wilkes-Barre/Hanover phase 1 levee, and the Plymouth levee. Work will begin next year on the second phase of the Wilkes-Barre/Hanover levee.

When the Wyoming Valley project is finished, some 15 miles of new and existing levees and floodwalls will have been built.

Needed structural, mechanical and electrical modifications to eight sanitary pump stations and 13 storm water pump stations that support this flood control system will also have been completed.

In addition, as many as 53 downstream communities will benefit from the mitigation plan that is intended to minimize the adverse impacts caused by the levee raising project.

"The common goal of this project is to protect the region against flows equal to that of Tropical Storm Agnes, which remains the region's flood of record causing over a billion dollars in damages in 1972," said Janet Harrington, project manager for the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project.

11th annual District picnic, June 15

Kicks off at 9:30 a.m. with all the fixin's

On June 15, all Baltimore District employees, families and retirees will celebrate the 226th birthday of the Corps of Engineers. New this year will be a Corps History Program to commemorate the event.

Hosted by Operations Division and sponsored by the Baltimore District Employees Activities Association and Civilian Activities Association, the picnic kicks off at Blob's Park in Jessup, Md., rain or shine at 9:30 a.m.

An event that began as Engineer Day, then Corps Day and presently Organization Day, it's a morale day for all employees and their families, and it's absolutely FREE.

All the fixin's

The picnic fare includes pit beef, BBQ chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, bratwurst, sauerkraut, baked beans, potato salad and coleslaw.

Also included are chips, pretzels, ice cream, cookies and soft drinks. Food tickets are available for purchase from picnic POCs.

Food service begins at 11:30 a.m. and will run until 2p.m. Food tickets are available for \$10 for non-Corps employees (13 and over); \$8 for Corps employees; \$5 for children 6-12. Children under 6 are free. Beer may be added for an additional charge of \$3.50.

Tickets must be purchased by **Monday, June 11** to receive the discount.

Instead of purchasing a food ticket, employees may bring a picnic lunch, kick back under a large shade tree, and relax.

Sports, entertainment

There's something for everyone from softball, volleyball, golf pitch-n-putt and horse-shoes to moon bounce, crazy ball, plinko, tic-tac-toe, bean bag toss, ring toss, spin art, and fantasy faces.

Cotton candy will also be available, free of charge. The Corps Safety Squirrel will be on hand to entertain and greet the crowd. DJ Roy Elder will be located in the indoor hall to entertain guests of all ages with music, games and prizes.

Corps memorabilia, such as clothes, hats, mugs and pins, will be available for purchase at the EAA /CAA booth.

Don't forget to purchase

those last minute 50/50 raffle tickets from your nearest ticket POC, or contact Walt Washington at (410) 962-4514. Tickets will also be available at the picnic information booth.

Parking is free at the park although employees and their families may use the free transportation provided by the District if they choose.

Transportation

Vans will leave from the Baltimore District breezeway on Redwood Street at 9 a.m. Advance reservations are required by contacting Kelly Colwell at extension 410-962-4091/3641. Vans will leave the Washington Aqueduct at 8:45 a.m. Advance reservations are required by contacting Lee Parker at (202) 764-0715. Call to inquire about the return trip schedule.

Volunteers are still needed for children's activities. Contact Linda Morrison at 410-962-3670 if you can help. For information on putting together a team for any sporting event, contact Don Snyder at (410) 962-6016.

Getting there

If leaving from home, take the Baltimore/Washington Parkway (Rt. 295) to Rt. 175 - Annapolis Road (Fort Meade/Odenton exit). Go east on Rt.175. Immediately, there will be a flashing light (firehouse), turn right onto Max Blob Park Road. Follow road to the end.



Whether you work or play in it: sun + heat = danger

Anyone who spends time outside in hot, sunny weather should be on guard. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, reminds us to watch for the symptoms of these heat-related illnesses:

Heat exhaustion: Symptoms include headache, dizziness, and light-headedness. Weakness, confusion, mood changes, nausea, vomiting, and fainting could occur.

It's important to act quickly when these symptoms are evident. The condition could develop into heat stroke. Here's what to do:

- Get the person to a cool, shaded spot, and stay with the individual.
- Loosen clothing and cool the skin with wet cloths. Fan the skin.
- Offer small amounts of water. Offer about 4 oz. every 15 minutes, if the victim can drink.
- Turn the victim on her side if there are complaints of nausea.

If improvement does not occur within a few minutes, call for help.

Heat stroke: If a person collapses after exposure to heat, it

could be a sign of heat stroke. Call for emergency medical help at once.

Protect yourself outdoors

One study found that the two groups at greatest risk for heat-stroke were roofers and tennis players. But anyone who is exposed to sun and heat should take these steps:

- Drink plenty of water to make up for loss through perspiration.
- Wear loose-fitting clothes that breathe and cover your skin. They're cooler than shorts and tank tops.
- Take breaks in the shade.
- Eat lightly but well.
- Begin activities earlier in the morning when it will be cooler.
- Wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat with a brim.

Protect yourself indoors

• Keep the environment cool. An air conditioner is best, but even table fans can help. If the AC goes out in hot weather, go to an air conditioned place such as a mall, theater, or library.

- Drink regularly. Don't wait



until you feel thirsty.

• Check your medications. If you take a diuretic or beta blocker for high blood pressure, ask your doctor whether you can lower the dosage in very hot weather. Antihistamines and some other medications can cause heat-related problems.

Older people who live alone are at greatest risk during heat waves. Check on your elderly neighbors during very hot weather.

Stay safe in your own backyard when mowing your lawn

Lawn mowers of various kinds are probably the most hazardous equipment you use in summer. They will account for about 76,000 emergency room visits this year.

"If you keep children away from your work area and don't carry them as riders, you've taken important steps to keep them out of harm's way," said Dr.

Sam Steel, director of the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety.

"When adults try to bypass the built-in safety features of machinery, like clutch brakes, deflectors on chutes, and automatic shutoffs, they place themselves at unnecessary risk," he added.

Other things to remember:

- Know your equipment. Read

the operator's manual and know how to shut off the machine quickly. Never refuel a hot engine.

- Remove all debris, toys, rocks, sticks, and other objects from the mowing area.
- Wear pants, heavy footwear, and eye protection when mowing. Don't try to mow wet grass.

Dutch Netherlands officials visit HQUSACE, Baltimore

Walking along the Assateague Island shoreline the group looked like typical business tourists, picking up seashells and enjoying the view. Except these tourists were dignitaries from the Dutch Netherlands, including Dutch Secretary of State Monique De Vries, participating in a project tour hosted by Baltimore District.

The Dutch delegation visited HQ, USACE in April for an overview of Corps programs, projects and recent challenges, and an afternoon on the Baltimore project tour.

The delegation had expressed special interest in projects incorporating beneficial use of dredged material, so PPMD employees, Daria Van Liew and Pat Coury, arranged the tour with this emphasis.

They flew to Ocean City, Md.,

for a bird's eye view of the beach replenishment project, the Ocean City Inlet and Assateague Island. On the ground, the group headed to Assateague Island National Seashore for a personal tour by National Park Service staff for a briefing on the Assateague Island Restoration Project.

"I was very surprised that many of the Dutch delegation were familiar with research on the dynamics of Assateague Island's shoreline," said Coury. "They said the project tour and the technical discussions with HQ, USACE staff made the day a huge success."

HQUSACE expects to enter a partnering agree-

ment with the Dutch Netherlands for additional partnering and technical exchange sessions.



Carl Zimmerman, National Park Service, points out an Assateague Island fact to a member of the Dutch delegation.

Plaisted retires

At a May ceremony, Maj. Brian D. Plaisted retired from the U.S. Army, after 20 years of service.

Plaisted's service with Baltimore District began in 1998 in the Programs and Project Management Division. After only a few months in the Environmental Management Branch, he became deputy district engineer for Spring Valley, where he remained until his retirement.

Plaisted graduated from West Point and began his career at Fort Lewis, Wa., moving on to Fort Riley, Kansas City District, Korea and Wheaton College as a ROTC instructor before his assignment in Baltimore.

Plaisted, his wife and two children will make their home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Vision Week: a celebratory event for the 'refreshed' vision

Baltimore District celebrated the "refreshed" Corps Vision at three different locations during May.

On May 14 Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., district engineer, met with field employees near the Wyoming Valley project office to view the chief of engineers' videotape and discuss what the vision means to them and how they can apply it to their jobs.

Then two days later, at a new employees' orientation at the Washington Aqueduct, Fiala presented a similar message to WA employees and field personnel in the Washington, D.C. area.

Finally, on May 18 all employees in the City Crescent Building

rotated through the District conference room at 30-minute intervals for their vision presentation.

All received copies of the new Strategic Vision brochure. Additional copies of the chief's *Just Do It* card were also available.

The colonel's message is highlighted in his Commander's Comment on p. 2 of this issue of the *Constellation*.

Field personnel who were unable to attend any events received copies of the brochure and cards. They were also given an opportunity to view the chief's videotape at their offices.

Baltimore to conduct Chesapeake Bay Workshop this month in Laurel

Green buildings. Greening government. Green initiatives. These are not Army terms. They're environmental language.

Facilities managers are facing recently enacted executive orders, laws and agreements that require them to build, maintain and renovate in a more environmentally sophisticated, or "green" way.

Baltimore District will hold a workshop June 4-5 at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Conference Center in Laurel, Md., to discuss what these new requirements mean and ways to implement them.

It is designed for people who work at and manage facilities or grounds in the Chesapeake Bay area.

"The great thing is that a lot of the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement would be accomplished if these things were done," said Rob Gore, chief of Planning and Environmental Services Branch, Planning Division.

"The workshop provides tools to achieve the goals."

For more information on the Chesapeake Bay 2001 workshop, contact Robert Pace, 410-962-4905.

Baltimore employees recognized in Meade's Army Environmental Award

A team led by the Fort Meade Directorate of Public Works and including Baltimore District employees accepted the Secretary of the Army Fiscal 2000 Environmental Award at a Pentagon ceremony last month.

The District employees invited to participate were: **Michael A. Dorris**, **John E. Tesner** and **Kimberly U. Gross** of Engineering Division, and **Gerald M. Pollis** of Programs and Projects Management Division.

The Army's annual environmental awards recognize outstanding achievements in five categories: natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, pollution prevention and environmental restoration.

Fort Meade won in the environmental restoration category for cleanup work that included

Tipton Airfield and other Corps projects.

"We teamed with the installation, EPA and the State of Maryland for restoration of Tipton Airfield and its transfer to Anne Arundel County," Pollis said.

"The installation used DOD's formal two-tier partnering guidance, which worked very successfully."

Baltimore District employees managed the Tipton project, including the cleanup of hazardous sites and unexploded ordnance, as well as the real estate transfer.

They also helped the installation put together a list of additional sites that require cleanup and developed a model to track potential groundwater contamination from on- and off-post sites.

News you can use

Volunteers wanted for Habitat for Humanity

Real Estate Division is heading a District effort to recruit about 60 people for a Habitat for Humanity project June 2 in Baltimore. Employees and family members are welcome.

Skills are not required. Tools will be provided. To volunteer or ask for information, contact Carol Shutt, 410-854-7038.

District picnic

The **Organization Day** picnic is scheduled for **June 15** at **Blob's Park**. See p. 8 for details.

Social Security calculator

Each year Social Security sends an estimate of what your retirement benefits will be if your income continues at the present level through retirement.

To calculate future benefits, go to <http://www.ssa.gov> and check out the benefits planner.

TSP open season

TSP Open Season continues to July 31. During open season, eligible employees may begin to contribute or increase or decrease the amount of their contributions (participants may terminate their contributions at any time).

Contribution maximums have been increased to **6 percent for CSRS and 11 percent for FERS** (up to the IRS maximum of \$10,500).



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
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Official Business

