



CONSTELLATION

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Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., Brig. Gen. Merdith W.B. "Bo" Temple, and Col. Robert Davis, Jr. stand at attention during the change of command ceremony.

Fiala hands command to Davis

*Story by Mary Beth Thompson
Public Affairs Office
Photos by Susanne Bledsoe
Information Management*

Nearly a thousand employees and invited guests witnessed the passing of Baltimore District leadership from Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr. to Col. Robert J. Davis, Jr. Aug. 1 during a ceremony at the Wyndham Hotel in Baltimore. The

event also marked Fiala's retirement from the Army.

The time-honored ritual that signifies a change of an Army command took place on a dais in the hotel's ballroom.

With quiet words and a smile, Fiala took the Corps flag, furled against its wooden staff, from Deputy District Engineer

for Programs and Project Management James R. Jones and gave the colors to Brig. Gen. Merdith W.B. "Bo" Temple, North Atlantic Division commander. Temple then turned and presented the standard to Davis, making Davis the new Baltimore District commander.

During his remarks,

(Continued on p. 8)



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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Commander's Comment

First exposure — January 1986

by Col. Robert J. Davis, Jr.
Commander & District Engineer

The place was Humphrey's Hall at Fort Belvoir in January 1986. The last three weeks of the Engineer Officers Advanced Course were devoted to the final preparation of officers becoming company commanders. Several of us, who had commanded engineer companies before attending the advanced course, considered ourselves already proficient and we had some options in those last three weeks to learn other things. Luckily, at that time, the *Facility Engineer Management Course* was offered as one of these options. The purpose of this course was to educate Army officers and civilians about operating, maintaining and constructing facilities at post, camps and stations throughout the world. At that point in my career, I did not know much about facility management and the nuances of serving in anything other than a "line" unit.

All Army courses worth their salt had a "distinguished" guest speaker on the final day. Our guest speaker was none other than a colonel named Martin Walsh, the commander of the Baltimore District! Little did Col. Walsh know that his future replacement was in the audience. This was my first exposure to the Baltimore District. I still have the notes from his talk and it made quite an impression. His knowledge, candidness, passion for his job, and his ability to take time out from what I assumed to be a

busy schedule, just to talk to us, was inspiring. He took time to share thoughts and help develop those outside his immediate organization for the betterment of the Army as a whole. That was special and I've always remembered it.

Several times since then, I've been on the "outside looking in" on the Baltimore District and have seen similar examples of programs and employees who were not just doing excellent work in supporting internal District activities, but who answered the call to support broader Army, Department of Defense and national programs. Men and women of the District can be found in the very center of every critical operation that our military undertakes; be it managing the construction of base camps during the early stages of Bosnia, supporting current operations in Afghanistan with the Forward Engineering Support Team, providing general support in Iraq, renovating District of Columbia Public Schools' facilities, producing drinking water for the District of Columbia, Arlington County and Falls Church, or in lending expertise to other districts, the division and the headquarters. Whenever the names of "experts" in a particular field are mentioned, someone within the Baltimore District is on the list.

Now that I'm on the "inside looking out," it's clear that the District is great because of our dedicated and professional people, our diversity, our mission and our challenging work!

My operating philosophy is fairly simple and I remember it by the acronym "T-I-P-S."

The **T** stands for "Talk to Employees." I enjoy walking around and talking to employees. If I see a "challenge" ("challenge" is a more positive word than "problem"), I'll refer it to the appropriate level for a "solution." Remember the Chief of Engineers' permission slip? If it is good for the customer, legal and ethical, and you are willing to be accountable for...just do it! I endorse empowerment and will tend to focus on "big picture" items. Listening goes right along with talking. You'll find that I'm a very good listener. I'm interested in you, your family, how you are improving how we do business, and how you are supporting our customers and stakeholders, and your plan for self improvement.

The **I** stands for "keep employees **Informed**." I very much believe in good communications up and down the chain of command. I intend to conduct periodic town hall meetings and I ask the chain of command to continue to communicate important issues to you, both formally and informally. Also keep your chain of command informed. Bad news doesn't get better with time. If you have an irresolvable "challenge," inform someone. Bring a proposed solution if you can, but don't let it fester.

P means "**Predictable**." Have you ever been notified at the last minute of a change that really threw you off course? I intend to be predictable to those around me. I'll do my best to finish meetings on time, not keep you waiting on me to

New commander previously with the Corps

Col. Robert J. Davis, Jr. became the commander and district engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Aug. 1.

Prior to his Baltimore assignment, he was a strategic planner with the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va.

As district engineer, Davis oversees engineering, construction and real estate activities for the Army, Air Force and other Department of Defense activities in the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsyl-

vania, West Virginia and Northern Virginia.

Davis is also responsible for water resources development activities within the drainage basin of the upper Chesapeake Bay. This includes a six-state area and the District of Columbia.

Davis was commissioned into the Army after graduating from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1980.

He earned master's degrees in civil engineering and in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University, and another in Strategic Resource Studies from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advance Courses, the Combined Armed Services Staff School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial Colleges of the Armed Forces.

Davis is a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Davis' service includes numerous command and staff positions in the United States and overseas.

His assignments included commander, C Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, Fort Ord., Calif.; executive officer in the 10th and 9th Engineer Battalions, Schweinfurt, Germany; associate professor, Departments of Mechanics and Civil and Mechanical Engineering, U.S. Military Academy, West Point; director of Public Works for the 6th Area Support Group in Stuttgart, Germany; and staff officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany.

He has had two previous assignments with the Corps, first as an assistant to the commanding general at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and second, as commander of the Detroit District.

Among his military decorations are the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal (six awards), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Wings and the Ranger Tab.

Davis was born in Arlington, Va., and reared in San Diego, Calif.



(Photo by Susanne Bledsoe)
Col. Robert J. Davis, Jr.

Commander's Comment -- continued from p. 2

not keep you waiting on me to start meetings, and in scheduling my appointments with you well enough in advance so you can properly prepare. Predictability also includes standardizing our internal "processes" in everything we do to support customers, and conducting after action reviews to improve these "processes." Some may view "processes" as bureaucratic, but it also provides predictability for the public that we serve.

Finally, the **S** stands for "**Sensitive.**" I value those who go the extra mile to be considerate of others, are positive, and who seek new and diverse opinions.

Negativism wastes our most precious asset...energy! Energy can be stretched a long way if used for the good of the District and our customers, or, is quickly depleted when used for malice. Professional differences will occasionally occur, but long term relationships should never be sacrificed for short-term gains.

Taking care of people includes setting high standards and giving prompt attention to personnel matters – good and bad.

Thanks for your hospitality, kind words of encouragement, and for welcoming me and my family into this great organization. I fully intend to have fun and enjoy my time here. If I don't, no one else will! I consider myself very fortunate to be your commander during these challenging times. **Essays.**

Major joins Baltimore District as new support operations deputy

story by Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office
photo by Tex Jobe
Information Management

Maj. David Pedersen's career path has led him through nearly every major aspect of military engineering—from teaching at West Point, through tours of duty around the United States, two tours in Germany (where he was recently the director of public works supporting a community of over 11,000 personal), and finally to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Baltimore.

"I got my wish," said Pedersen.

Last year, after reaching the decision to join the Corps of Engineers, Pedersen said that Baltimore District was the only place his colleagues consistently recommended he serve.

"Everyone told me to go to Baltimore," Pedersen said. "Your reputation is fantastic."

He considers himself fortunate to receive this opportunity.

"When you write down where you want to go, often times you don't get what you ask for," he said. Luckily, the Army saw that his personal interest in construction, in concert with his education and experience, made the Corps a perfect place to continue his military career.

For Pedersen, the Corps provides a long-term opportunity for professional growth.

Since the military provides the perfect regiment of career building experiences, it allowed him to learn specific technical and leadership tools needed to be an effective supervisor.

"In your first assignment as a platoon leader, you are managing 30 or so people. But eventually, you gain more and more responsibility and have more people working under you," said Pedersen.

"I'm very impressed by the amount of talent that I see," he said, even though his tour in Baltimore has just begun.

He already has outlined specific goals that he hopes to accomplish. At the top of his agenda, Pedersen said that he wants to embed project management business practice into the support offices.

Pedersen also spoke with pride about the recent deployments of District employees into Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We have the knowledge and ability to step in and assist in rebuilding the nation," Pedersen said, in support of Field Force Engineering.

He said he admires those employees who are willing to put their lives on hold for the kind of noble cause associated



Maj. David Pedersen

with rebuilding the infrastructure of a country.

Pedersen's Army career began after he graduated from Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., in 1987—the same year he married.

After two years as a company commander at Fort Carson, Col., he went to graduate school at Stanford University, where he earned two master's degrees—one in structural engineering and the other in construction engineering and management. Then, the Army sent him to teach engineering at West Point.

After spending the last two years in Germany, Pedersen said he is happy to be living on the East Coast, somewhat closer to his childhood home in Maine.

Growing up there, he became an avid outdoor sports lover. He enjoys running and particularly relishes the volksmarches, which he and his family participated in while stationed in Germany. He and his wife have two children.

Lt. Col. Hand returns to District as deputy

story and photo by
Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

A familiar face has returned to Baltimore District. Lt. Col. "J.T." Hand recently replaced Lt. Col. W. Scott Flanigan as deputy commander for Baltimore District.

Hand, 40, no stranger to Baltimore, served as a project engineer in the Bay Area Office in 1995 as a major. He later was promoted to deputy district engineer for civil works (now support operations) in 1997.

Although his military career has taken him to such places as Afghanistan, Kosovo, Brazil and Germany, Hand says that Baltimore has always been one of his favorite places.

"I am thrilled to return to Baltimore," said Hand. "Everything that I know about the Corps of Engineers I learned from Baltimore District. Being here is like coming home."

Just as Hand is happy to return to the Corps, District

employees say they are glad for Hand's return because he brings a wide range of skills and expertise to the Corps.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with J.T. when he was here before," said Ron Martin, chief of the Logistics Management Office. "You could always count on him to respond when his assistance was needed with some issue."

Chris Correale, chief of Operations, also has positive memories of Hand's days in the District. Correale said she is delighted that Hand has returned to the Corps.

"On his previous tour here, J.T. distinguished himself as enthusiastic and unafraid to get his hands dirty," said Correale. "He is a great supporter of the troops."

Hand said he fervently supports the troops because he has experienced military life firsthand. Before he returned to the Corps this past June, Hand was the chief of facilities and construction for 3rd U.S. Army. In this position, Hand was responsible for support and preparations for combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Hand said that he often came in contact with Corps employees during his detail in other countries.

"There are some tremendous Corps employees in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq and other places," said Hand. "These Corps employees are doing wonderful things, and they are making a difference."

Hand's other Army assignments include operations officer (SE) for the 9th Combat Engineer

Battalion out of Schweinfurt, Germany; personnel exchange officer to the Brazilian army in Paraiba, Brazil; and commander of Company A, 554th Engineer Battalion. Hand has also been an instructor at the U.S. Army Engineer School and Center in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and assistant operations officer in the Technical Section of the 1st Construction Engineer Group of the Brazilian army.

Hand, the only male of his parent's five children, was born in Yonkers, N.Y. He is very proud of his hometown.

"Yonkers is a great place," said Hand. "The movie, *Hello, Dolly*, was filmed there, and we are the home of Carvel® ice cream."

Hand earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Vermont. He also received language training at the Defense Language Institute, and is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

Hand lives at Aberdeen Proving Ground with his wife, Kathleen. He and Kathleen have two sons, Thomas Jay, 7, and Brian, 3, and one daughter, Lauren, 4.

In his spare time, Hand enjoys spending time with his family. His goal is to start a running program for athletes in the District.

Although he is quite fond of running in marathons, Hand said that his children are his greatest joy.

"My best hobby is being a dad," said Hand.



Lt. Col. J.T. Hand

New IM chief hails from Oregon

story and photo by
Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

When Trish Holden came to the Corps of Engineers two months ago, she did not know what to expect. Holden, the new chief of the District's Information Management Office, spent the last 12 years of her life working as an information technology manager at Bonneville Power Administration—a job that provided her with minimal exposure to the Corps.

Since she has been telling people about her new job with the Corps, however, Holden has been received positive feedback about the organization.

"I am very impressed with the Corps' reputation," said Holden.

"Even though I am not actually out there dredging channels, I am proud to be associated with the people who do these wonderful things."

Holden, a California native, brings much experience to Baltimore District. She has been working in the field of information technology for almost 20 years.

Holden holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics from San Diego State University, and is a member of a few engineering associations, including the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Data Administration Management Association.

Although she is quite new to

the Corps, the new IMO chief has many plans for the future of IMO.

"I would like our office to have a strong customer-service emphasis," said Holden.

"IMO's goal is to define the Corps vision—and work hard to support this vision. We would like to work with both our internal and external customers in whatever capacity we are needed."

Holden says that she is relying on District workers to give her feedback on how IMO is progressing.

"I am asking the other chiefs in the District about what IMO can do to support them," said Holden. "We want to know how we can be a service and resource to the District."

Just as Holden has a strong commitment to her career, she is also dedicated to her family. She is the mother of two sons, Greg and Tobin.

Although she loves her sons deeply, Holden said she always wanted a girl. That wish was granted when her daughter-in-law, Carrie and Di, were added to the family.

"I was overjoyed when my sons married," said Holden.

"I finally got my daughters. I'm glad they were full-grown because I did not have to go through puberty with them."

Holden also has one 10-year-old granddaughter, Devon.

Holden lives in the Little Italy section of Baltimore. In her spare time, she enjoys taking long walks, hiking, reading novels and playing bridge.

Although she does not play



Trish Holden

sports as much as she did in earlier days, Holden is quite athletic. She likes to play tennis and soccer and occasionally, swims laps in a pool.

Holden's hobbies also include traveling. She often visits England to spend time with her brother.

Holden is just beginning to familiarize herself with the Baltimore area, but she says she is enjoying her new home.

"I just love the people here," said Holden.

"Baltimore is a great city with a great culture."

Although Holden has only been with the Corps for a few months, she says that the organization is already making a huge impression on her.

"There are some very talented people here in the Corps," said Holden.

"I love the sense of community that I feel here."

Corps part of Lewis and Clark bicentennial expedition

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Citizens across the United States will have the opportunity to reenact the Lewis and Clark expedition this year.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and many other federal agencies, created the "Corps of Discovery II — 200 Years to the Future," an exhibit that celebrates the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark westward expedition.

The exhibit will travel across the country, following the path that Lewis and Clark took as they searched for an all-water route to the Pacific Ocean.

The Corps of Discovery II experience allows people to visit an exhibition tent and receive a guided tour of Lewis and Clark's historic journey west. The "Tent of Many Voices" gives the visitors a chance to hear presentations about local ties to the journey and unknown facets of the expedition.

Jude Harrington, lead park ranger at Raystown Lake, said Baltimore District employees should be especially proud of the Lewis and Clark exhibit because the District has a signature piece in the display.

"The replica of the Lewis and Clark keelboat was conceived and constructed here at Raystown Lake," said Harrington.

Employees from the Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps, supervised the

construction of the boat. The boat was constructed through a program that allowed unemployed youth to find work. These youth were paid to build the boat.

According to Allen Gwinn, another ranger at Raystown Lake, the keelboat is a popular feature of the display because it provides visitors with interactive opportunities.

Visitors to the keelboat are able to sit on the boat and hear stories about how the boat was powered upriver and see some of the plants, animals, medicines and instruments that became part of the Lewis and Clark journals.

"The opportunity to walk on the deck of this scaled-down replica gives the visitor some idea of the magnitude of the three-year journey," said Gwinn. "By touching the trinkets, the visitor has a chance to become a part of the journey."

Initially, the keelboat was not going to travel across the United States with the exhibit. The National Park Service, however, recently extended the invitation for the boat to join the traveling exhibition. The Corps

accepted the offer last month.

Harrington said he is excited about the boat's permanent place in the exhibit.

"Before the boat was added to the exhibit, the Corps had no signature on the display," said Harrington. "This boat is now the signature piece for the Corps of Engineers."

Go to www.nps.gov/led for a schedule of the exhibit.



Bruce Lane (dressed as Merriweather Lewis) answers questions about the historic expedition.



Visitors to the keelboat peek inside the captain's sleeping quarters. The boat was part of a bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Ceremony takes place at Wyndham

-- continued from cover

Temple described leading Baltimore District as running one of the Corps of Engineers most complex programs.

"I'm counting on you," Temple said to Davis, "to take care of our customers, our mission and our people."

Davis's wife, Cecile, and their three children—Maren, Robert and Paige—watched Davis accept command. His father and other special guests were also present for the occasion.

Davis began his speech by remarking on the tapestry of relationships woven with many of those guests over the course of his military career.

"Today begins the start of many new relationships for me," he said.

Sens. Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Congressmen Roscoe G. Bartlett, Todd Platts and C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, and Maryland Secretary of Transportation

Robert Flanagan spoke during the ceremony, welcoming Davis and paying tribute to Fiala.

"I regard public service as one of the highest callings," Sarbanes said. "Particularly in a democracy, it really, really demands that people respond in the public service. Col. Fiala, throughout his exceptional career, has demonstrated that commitment."

"You've been a true partner on so many things," Mikulski said. "You're really part of what we like to call Team Maryland."

Following the transfer of colors, Fiala was officially retired from the U.S. Army with 25 years of service. He has not announced his future plans but has said he would like to remain in the area.

Fiala's wife, Evalyne, and their three children—Kathleen, Bryan and Kevin—attended the ceremony, as did his parents and siblings.

"I close out a blast of an Army career," he said. Known for his feisty leadership style and strong advocacy for the Corps, Fiala talked about the commitment and passion of the employees of Baltimore District and called the District the best in the Corps of Engineers.

"I can say it today; I'm retired," he said.

Fiala received the Silver Order of the de Fleury and the Legion of Merit. The Army Engineer Association, with the approval of the chief of engineers, awarded the Silver de Fleury for career achievement as an engineer officer. Fiala's Legion of Merit, his second, was bestowed for exceptional meritorious service during his 25-year Army career.

Temple awarded Evalyne Fiala two certificates of appreciation, one for her service to Baltimore District and the other in recognition of her career



The U.S. Army Band Brass Quintet plays at the ceremony.



The color guard from Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center at Fort Meade, Md., proceed to the stage.

service as a military spouse.

The U.S. Army Band's Brass Quintet provided music for the ceremony. The U.S. Army Medical Command's Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center color guard presented the colors. Calvin Pierce, Real Estate Division, gave the invocation.

The daylong change of command activities included receptions for the outgoing and incoming commanders at the hotel and at the District headquarters offices.



Col. Fiala takes the guidon from Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management from James Jones.



Sen. Sarbanes, Rep. Bartlett and Sen. Mikulski bow their heads as the invocation is read.



Brig. Gen. Merdith W.B. Temple



Col. Fiala and Brig. Gen. Temple applaud the new district engineer, Col. Robert J. Davis, Jr.

Baltimore's FEST-A team to rebuild infrastructure

by Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

On July 6, a team of four Baltimore District employees and one Norfolk District employee began their deployment as a Forward Engineering Support Team-Augmented, or FEST-A. This mission leads them into a support mission ultimately aimed at rebuilding the infrastructure of Afghanistan.

Headed by Capt. Eric McFadden, Baltimore District's FEST-A team is the fifth team to serve on this mission, replacing four previous teams from the Fort Worth District. Baltimore's team will partner with the 10th Army Mountain Division, as did the four other FEST-A teams.

The first stop on their road to Afghanistan was the Continental U.S. Replacement Center in Fort Benning, Ga. There, they acquired additional equipment, endured a week of training and then caught a flight bound for Afghanistan.

According to McFadden, the primary mission for this FEST-A team will focus on military construction. For this specific mission, knowledge of Global Information Systems and information management comprise one part of the team, while expertise in civil, electrical, mechanical and environmental engineer-

ing completes the rest of the components.

In addition to McFadden, Baltimore District employees for this FEST-A are:

Richard Hanson Jr. and Justin Callahan, Engineering; and **David Dawood**, Construction. **Ryan Nagel**, Engineering, Norfolk, is the other team member.

"Our support will include design work, taking the customer's intent from conceptual to creation of the design document, which will be handed off to the contracting agent and then to the contractor," said McFadden.

While the absence of valuable co-workers places a greater strain on the work force at home, many division chiefs appreciate the sacrifice and commitment their deployed employees have made.

Anthony Vidal, chief of the Civil Engineering Section, echoed the sentiment of other chiefs when speaking about his deployed co-worker, Callahan.

"What Justin is doing is very

admirable, and we commend him for his support to Afghanistan."

Providing the greatest amount of protection and safety for every deployed member of the Corps of Engineers plays an important role in the planning of every mission. McFadden acknowledged that this mission, like all missions to areas of conflict, presents a higher risk of danger, but he said he is confident that the 10th Mountain Division will give ample security.

While this new team currently serves as a replacement for the teams from Fort Worth District, McFadden said that he believes that after his team's 120 days of service expire, Baltimore will have the responsibility to replace this team permanently in November.

This FEST-A team joins other such teams on support missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, along with about 400 other Corps employees on individual assignments around the war-torn area and in the Middle East. Of the Corps employees, Baltimore District has placed eight across Iraq and Afghanistan (as of July 18).

The call for volunteers to support the various missions continues as each mission's time expires and the need for new employees and teams increases.

If anyone wishes to lend their expertise to the cause, they are encouraged to call Ron Maj at ext. 3845.



U.S. Army photo

A soldier repairs a pipe as part of the infrastructure work done in Kosovo in 1999. Baltimore's FEST-A team are performing similar work in Afghanistan during the current mission.

Isle of Wight project moves toward second phase

by Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

The new Isle of Wight will become a gateway to Ocean City and its tens of thousands of annual visitors, thanks to much-needed shoreline improvements.

An August ceremony will mark the completion of a \$3.7 million project that adds about eight acres of salt marsh to a desolate shoreline, cleans up an unsightly littered beach, and provides new recreational amenities for residents of the area. All of these changes are aimed at improving wildlife and pleasing local residents.

In the 1960s, Worcester County recognized the pending loss of this habitat through erosion, and attempted to reduce the impacts by hardening the shoreline.

“They placed large concrete rubble along the shoreline, effectively stopping the erosion,” said Project Manager Phil Hager. “Unfortunately, it also was an attractive nuisance that created liability concerns; it wasn’t visually pleasing to tourists, and it was not a natural shoreline.”

In the early 1990s, the Corps completed the Ocean City Water Resources Feasibility Study, which looked at the beach system throughout the coastal bay’s watershed. The Isle of Wight emerged as one of seven projects.

The Corps team, along with partners from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Worcester County, decided to return the Isle of

Wight to its historic condition of the 1950s, prior to significant erosion. After three years of planning and designing the project, Hager and his team unveiled a two-phase strategy to improve the beach.

The first phase, completed in July 2003, involved installing a breakwater system that borders the footprint of the project area. The breakwater provides protection for the shoreline, reduces future erosion, and allows for native vegetation to grow. Phase one also included installing an interpretive observation walkway across the proposed marshland, and laying groundwork for the

reduce SAV impacts, the team used innovative methods to perform a large-scale, mechanized transplant of the SAV, placing the grasses farther down the shoreline. They also changed the project configuration to further reduce SAV impacts. According to Hager, this successful large-scale transplant was the first ever of its kind.

During the second phase, workers will remove and pulverize the concrete currently on the shoreline, contour the fill, and begin planting two kinds of salt marsh—*spartina alterna* flora, and *spartina patens*. The first stage in planting the salt marsh begins with pouring the pulverized debris and concrete into the new wetland area to serve as a base. This helps to prevent future erosion. Then, about 25,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the Isle of Wight channel will be liquefied and pumped into the area, raising the isle’s floor to nearly the same level as the water.

“This project and the Ocean Pines salt marsh restoration project will help reverse a century long trend of salt marsh loss,” said Hager.

The finished project will restore the ecosystem of the Isle of Wight, and have a new look that features a variety of recreation amenities, including picnic tables, a wooden walkway and a boat launch area. Designed to encourage continued recreational use, this project captures the needs of the environment, and protects critical natural resources.



View of shoreline before construction.



View of shoreline after construction.

recreational amenities, such as a launching area for local fishing boats and canoes.

Prior to construction, the team discovered the presence of submerged aquatic vegetation, or SAV, on the proposed site. To

Weather cooperates for District picnic

by Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

Wild softball and soccer games, balloon animals, good food and sunny weather marked this year's annual District picnic at Blob's Park July 11.

The all-day event featured plenty of other family activities, including face painting, tattoos and sports tournaments.

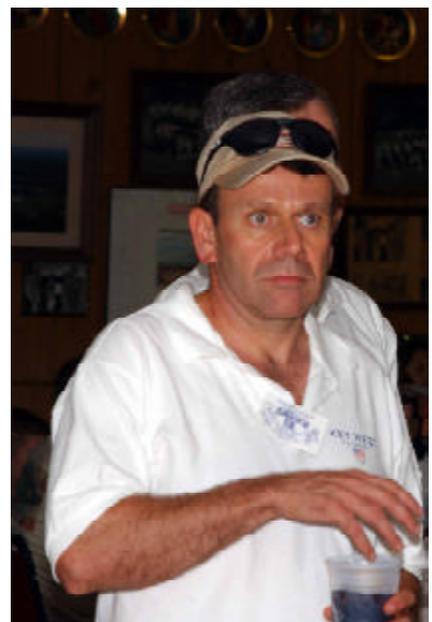
"We had a good time; my daughter made a button, colored some and played in the moonbounce," said Computer Specialist Jason Cochran, who came to the picnic with his wife and daughter.

During lunch, Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., District commander, thanked everyone who helped put together the picnic, and took a few minutes to acknowledge some of the Corps employees who could not be there because of their recent deployments.

The organizers had plenty to be proud of since many employees said they appreciated the family time together.

Stephanie Roth, a Human Resources assistant, brought her 2-year-old daughter and said, "It was the highlight of her summer. Kaylee had a blast."

The coveted softball competition plaque went to the Hazardous, Toxic Waste Branch team composed of District employees from some of the smaller offices.



Photos by Susanne Bledsoe and
Tex Jobe, IMO



Community helps Scranton LFP project reach milestone

Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., Baltimore District engineer, paid tribute to the people of Scranton, Pa., at a ceremony July 7 to celebrate the completion of the Albright Avenue portion of the Scranton Local Flood Protection Project.

About 100 federal, state and local officials and community members attended the ceremony.

During his remarks, Fiala thanked members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation, state and local agencies,

the contractor and the Corps' project delivery team. But he singled out the community for special praise.

"The bottom line is that the people of Scranton were the force that pushed for this project," Fiala said. "You're the ones who made it happen."

Now that the Albright Avenue project is complete, the Corps' team will shift focus across the Lackawanna River. Work will begin on the Plot and Green Ridge levee projects later this year.



Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., gestures toward the new Albright Avenue portion of the Scranton project.

The total cost of the Albright Avenue, Plot and Green Ridge work is \$55.6 million.

Ceremony marks start of Four Mile Run Feasibility Study

On July 7, Deputy District Engineer for Support Operations Maj. David Pedersen joined Rep. James Moran Jr., Mayor William Euille of Alexandria, Va., Paul Ferguson, chairman of the Arlington County Board, and other local elected officials and community groups at a special ceremony to announce the start of the Four Mile Run Feasibility Study.

During this joint study by the Corps of Engineers, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, multiple areas within the Four Mile Run watershed will be evaluated to determine the feasibility of constructing environmental restoration and enhancement projects.

New wetlands, restoration of stream habitats, improvements

to existing wetland areas and identification of suitable planting sites are a few of the possible environmental improvements that could be considered.

Any environmental or enhancement projects that may result from the study would not impact the existing Four Mile Run Local Flood Protection Project built by the Corps of Engineers in 1983.

It's estimated the feasibility study will take three years to complete and cost approximately \$3.6 million, which will be cost-shared between the Corps and the two local sponsors.

Part of the non-federal share will be funded with a \$1 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Two ceremonies in July

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Forest Glen Fire Station was conducted July 23. The 7,800 square foot fire station, located in Silver Spring, Md., is housed at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, or WRAMC, annex. The old station was located outside the boundaries of the WRAMC annex on land that was given to the General Services Administration for disposal.

Also on July 23, Denis duBreuil, Baltimore District's Harrisburg area engineer, joined Col. Patricia McQuiston, commander of Tobyhanna Army Depot, at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Industrial Operations Facility at the depot.

Contracting Division receives top awards

Dr. James Rich, chief, Contracting Division, has been selected as the Outstanding Contracting Officer (civilian) of the Year for the Department of the Army.

He receives this award for his support to the Department of the Army Residential Communities Initiative, or RCI, program.

The RCI Contracting PDT Task Force received the award

for Unit Team Specialized in Contracting for the Department of the Army.

Team members were Rich, Bill Mysliwiec, Mary Fitzgerald, Jim Mack, Barbara Hawthorne, Tracy Fetchik, and Cathey Robertson, all from Baltimore District.

Team members from HQ USACE were Matthew Keiser, Legal Support, and Larry Becker, Program Manager.

'Green' building opens at Aberdeen

The ribbon was cut and awards bestowed at a ceremony to open the Canal Creek Ground-water Treatment Plant at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., June 27.

The \$8.6 million project earned silver level certification in the Corps' SPiRiT program. SPiRiT stands for Sustainable Project Rating Tool.

"The SPiRiT award stems from the federal government's efforts to design, construct and operate more energy efficient buildings," Col. Fiala, district engineer, said.

The plant itself is in a recycled structure, which had been sitting unused. It treats contaminated groundwater with an innovative resin absorption process.

The facility also incorporates several environmentally friendly building components, such as a semi-permeable parking surface, energy efficient windows, automated controls that lower energy demands, and use of process water in cooling the building.

Fiala presented plaques to representatives of the installation, the contractor and the Corps' project team.

The Canal Creek team found innovative and environmentally sound solutions to complex groundwater contamination problems, according to Fiala.

The plant treats water from the Canal Creek aquifer that is contaminated with volatile organic compounds.

Detrick breaks ground for Support Center

On July 21, Maj. David L. Pedersen, deputy district engineer for Support Operations, participated in a ground breaking ceremony for the new Community Support Center at Fort Detrick.

This \$3.7 million project involves renovating the second

floor of a former warehouse to create a community support center.

Several support activities that are currently scattered at various locations will be consolidated into one central convenient location when the new center is complete.

News you can use

Pentagon Memorial Fund

The Pentagon Memorial Family Steering Committee, which was



started in November 2001 by Baltimore District's Carol Anderson-Austra at the onset of the Corps' planning work for the memorial, is now in a fund-raising mode. The committee's objective is to raise money to build and maintain the memorial.

"Our goal is to raise \$20 million over the next two years," wrote committee members Jim Laychak and Rosemary Dillard in a letter announcing the formation of the Pentagon Memorial Fund.

"Twelve million dollars will be used for the construction of the Pentagon Memorial and the balance will be used to create an endowment for its maintenance."

The committee noted that other national memorials, such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Oklahoma City Memorial, have been built with private contributions.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

**Pentagon Memorial Fund
c/o Langan Associates, PC
2900 South Quincy Street
Suite 150
Arlington, Va. 22206**

Famous lefties

- **Benjamin Franklin, U.S. founding father**
- **Steve Forbes, businessman/publisher**
- **Ruth Bader Ginsberg, US Supreme Court Justice**
- **Anthony Kennedy, US Supreme Court Justice**
- **Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense**
- **Col. Oliver North, White House aid**
- **H. Ross Perot, businessman**
- **William Perry, Secretary of Defense**
- **Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President**
- **Fidel Castro, Cuban leader**
- **Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli prime-minister**
- **Henry Ford, automobile manufacturer**
- **August Piccard, inventor of stratosphere, bathosphere**
- **Edwin Buzz Aldrin, astronaut**
- **Wally Schirra, astronaut**
- **Dave Barry, journalist**
- **Edward R. Murrow, correspondent**
- **Ted Koppel, journalist**
- **Forrest Sawyer, journalist**
- **Jay Leno, talk show host**
- **Wink Martindale, game show host**



- **Uri Geller, psychokinetic performer**
- **Richard Simmons, exercise guru**
- **Marie Dionne, quintuplet**
- **Bob MacDonald, TV host**