



CONSTELLATION

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District Digest

Corps removes old Nike missile silos

by Mary Beth Thompson
Public Affairs Office

The dismantling of the missile silos at the former Tolchester, Md., Nike Missile Site completed in June testified to the passing of an era.

"This is the end of the Cold War," Art Smit said, as he watched a bulldozer work on the final silo closure. Smit, of the Environmental Remediation Resident Office, is the project's remediation field manager.

Most District employ-

ees were born during the Cold War and can easily recall the United States and the former Soviet Union building weapons and defense systems against the other's military might.

That antagonism is now part of history, but much of the infrastructure that supported the arms race still dots the country.

The six underground silos at Tolchester once held radar-guided surface-to-air missiles critical to the Cold-War-era ring of protection surrounding

Washington, D.C.

Until recently, only the 40-foot-by-9-foot metal doors, the concrete pads that surrounded them and the silo access stairwell could be seen from above ground. Below ground, thick concrete walls, ceilings and floors outlined large, rectangular enclosures about 63 feet long by 50 feet wide by 16 feet deep.

"Some silos were bigger and some were smaller," said Pete Garger, the project

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With its huge steel doors removed, the silo's interior is exposed.

(Photo by Mary Beth Thompson)



U.S. Army Corps
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Baltimore District

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Commander's Comment

Final thoughts as I prepare to retire

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

Next month I will pass command to Col. Robert J. Davis, Jr. That day will be a difficult time for me, not just because I'm leaving Baltimore District, but also because my service in the military will come to an end.

As I look back over these last three years in Baltimore, I'm impressed by all of you who come to work every day, whether here at the City Crescent Building or at our field offices and facilities. The vast majority of you enjoy what you do, are driven, dedicated and passionate about coming to work, trying to get the right thing accomplished. Such loyalty is simply not something you see in too many federal agencies.

Your desire to achieve the best has made it easy for me to facilitate the kind of team-oriented environment that I focused on creating within the District.

When I arrived three years ago, I wanted to establish a culture that allows freedom of thought, encouraging those who want to take a bit of risk to do so without the fear of backlash from upper management. I hope I have helped achieve this kind of environment.

In retrospect, there are so many projects that serve as

examples of what we can do when exemplary leadership maximizes every skill of every team member.

Projects like the Washington Aqueduct and Pentagon Memorial serve as models.

Three years ago the Washington Aqueduct was a front-page issue, laced with political agendas. The detailed work from everyone involved with preparing congressional testimony allowed the Corps to enter a hostile environment and answer some tough questions, while diffusing any chance of a potential lawsuit. Ever since that tremendous early success, nothing in Baltimore could surprise me.

I wasn't surprised on September 11th when Baltimore responded with incredible speed and efficiency. We provided swing office space in Virginia for displaced Pentagon employees faster than they were ready to move in.

We quickly and successfully changed the way we do business because of our new awareness of terrorism. Where once we considered putting a nature trail through Fort Belvoir, or freely publishing ordnance information in Spring Valley, we suddenly had to weigh certain decisions, balancing what's good for the public against

whether a terrorist group could take advantage of certain information.

When Carol Anderson-Austra persuaded the Pentagon staff who wanted a memorial in a year to reconsider that decision, it wasn't the DE making the speech, or the NAD commander, or even a department chief. It was the project manager, using her research and communication skills to convince the staff of the right thing to do.

I wish that I could stay here and continue to reinforce the teaming aspect. I'd like to see how enormously effective I believe the PMBP training will be, and observe first-hand the quantum improvements in the way we do business.

The future of strategic outsourcing will force us to take a look at how we're organized and how we do business. But I believe it will improve our organization, and allow us to compete very favorably.

While I hope that I helped implement a team environment, our victories have nothing to do with me, and everything to do with you, the District employees.

I will miss Baltimore. When I first arrived, I was told that this is the best job I'll ever have. Now I know how true that really is. **Essays.**

Colonel shares impressions of his three years

by Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

Before his first day as Baltimore's district engineer, Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr. heard warnings that Baltimore District was unlike any other district; his colleagues cautioned him that every issue would be a front-page story.

After enduring a grueling congressional testimony in his first months, and then finding Baltimore thrust into the media spotlight over ordnance and arsenic in Spring Valley, Fiala knew exactly what his colleagues meant.

"I probably have the record for congressional testimony by a district engineer," Fiala said.

Baltimore District faced a plethora of high-interest issues from the very beginning of his tenure, but his ability to overcome those early challenges shaped the character of his term as district engineer.

In the first few months, he learned to handle the intense local and national media pressure surrounding such Corps projects as the Washington Aqueduct, Spring Valley and D.C. Public Schools. In particular, he recalled overcoming the early challenges with the Washington Aqueduct.

"We really went into a hostile environment, and there was a national political agenda being played out," he said. "Gearing up for that and the intense preparation were necessary to make sure that we answered things generally enough that it didn't impact a potential lawsuit."

While he admitted that was a painful time, learning to manage the political rhetoric under intense media attention helped equip him to better handle other challenges in the future.

Spring Valley was another controversial issue, but Fiala spoke about the significant progress that

quality employees onsite at Spring Valley have made. He noted that when arsenic appeared in the soil around the Child Development Center at Spring Valley, the team found a way to speed up the process of cleaning up the area and diffusing the situation.

Fiala remarked about the recent regular and chemical munitions that were destroyed onsite. "They were eliminated well below the noise level, and well below the national media attention," he said.



Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.

It wouldn't take long before Fiala faced the most difficult challenge as district engineer.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Fiala was on leave at home when he received a call from the office alerting him to events occurring in New York City. He turned on the television just in time to see a second plane hit the second tower of the World Trade Center. At the same time, headlines began flashing on the screen about a fire in and around the Pentagon.

"The adrenaline started pumping," he said, "and I was all keyed up...I told Lt. Col. Scott Flanigan I was heading into the District."

During his drive to Baltimore, he saw something that he said will stay with him forever: a traffic sign with a travel advisory that said not to travel into the D.C. metro area

because of the attack on the Pentagon. "In a country where we are free to travel anywhere, here was a sign that said you can't. That stuck with me."

Staring tragedy in the face, Baltimore District's response impressed Fiala. "It was incredible that we were able to pull together folks in that short a time and get the quality of thought and initial planning done."

Sept. 11th changed the world, as well as the way the Corps does business. The demands on security, new standards on information sharing and increased responsibility within the District presented many additional challenges. Fiala said he was extremely proud of the District's response to these new obstacles.

"Baltimore District met most of those challenges in a pretty remarkable way," he said.

In reflecting over his three years, he acknowledged that he entered the District at a time where these issues were at their most volatile state. And while he said he is proud of the success, he's more proud of the "passion and dedication" with which District employees handled each and every issue.

"It's got nothing to do with my leadership, it's got everything to do with the team..."

Fiala's last day as district engineer will be as great a challenge as any that he's faced in the last three years, he said.

An Army brat, he's been connected to the military all of his 47 years. But Aug. 1, that will come to end.

With two sons entering college, and a daughter receiving her degree this spring, Fiala said, "It's time for us. Every military family knows when its time."

Baltimore District bids farewell to deputy commander

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. W. Scott Flanigan, deputy commander for Baltimore District, will end his tour of duty with the District later this month when he accepts another assignment as director of public works for the 100th Area Support Group in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

While District workers say they are excited about

in the District.”

In his short exposure to the District, Flanigan, who also served as the deputy district engineer for civil works from 2000 to 2001, has been characterized as a strategic thinker and talented planner.

Fiala commended Flanigan for creating the District's new employee orientation program.

“Before Scott came to the District, we had no formal program to welcome new employees to the District,” said Fiala. “Scott was instrumental in putting the program together.”

Fiala also credits Flanigan with developing the District's field force engineering program.

Like Fiala, Marie Johnson, chief of the Equal Employment Office, said that Flanigan set an excellent example for others.

Johnson also said she admires Flanigan because he epitomizes Army excellence while maintaining an open-door policy, making himself available and approachable to all District workers.

Before he came to Baltimore District, Flanigan served as the battalion operations officer for the 27th Engineer Battalion in Fort Bragg, N.C.

He also served previously with the Corps as a resident engineer in Japan District.

Flanigan said that his previous Corps experience inspired

him to seek another assignment with the Corps.

“I enjoyed the time I spent with the Corps in Japan District, and I was fortunate enough to get another assignment in Baltimore,” said Flanigan.

“I value the challenging nature of the work we do.”

Flanigan holds a bachelor's degree from Clarkson University and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Flanigan serves as the president of the Society of American Military Engineers, Baltimore Post.

Flanigan lives in Aberdeen with his wife of 14 years, Sonja. He and Sonja have two daughters, Katherine, 7, and Kristen, 5. In his spare time, Flanigan enjoys skiing, traveling and spending quality time with his family.

Flanigan said he has mixed emotions about leaving Baltimore District. He said he is excited about returning to Germany because his wife has family there.

“I'm hoping that my wife will be able to reconnect with her family,” said Flanigan.

But Flanigan admits that he has grown to love the Corps.

“This has been a great job,” said Flanigan. “The experience I've received at the Corps has helped me to advance professionally. My family and I have made many great friends here in Baltimore, and we may return to the area in the future.”



Lt. Col. W. Scott Flanigan

Flanigan's new opportunity, many of them say they will miss Flanigan's presence in the District.

Although Flanigan, 41, has served only three years in the District, he has made a name for himself among District workers.

“A lot of the success that the District enjoys today is due, in part, to Lt. Col. Flanigan,” said Charles J. Fiala, Jr., commander of Baltimore District. “He has been my trusted adviser on many of the controversial issues

Retiree spent 36 years with the Corps

story and photo by
Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

When Milt Cornish worked in Baltimore District, his job did not end when he went home for the evening. As the national emergency program coordinator, Cornish was always alert.

"If any major snowstorm, hurricane, terrorist attack or nuclear holocaust threatened the region, I became involved," said Cornish.

Now that he is retired, Cornish, 65, leaves the worrying to someone else. He passes his days by traveling, exercising, spoiling his grandchildren, and spending quality time with his wife.

"I am just relaxing and taking it easy," said Cornish. "I enjoy not having to get up early in the morning."

One way in which Cornish relaxes is by watching movies in his new home theater, which he recently finished building in his basement.

"I've always dreamed of having my very own home theater," said Cornish. "It's turned out quite well."

Cornish retired from the Corps in 1998, after 36 years of federal service. He started with the Corps in 1962 as a civil engineering technician in Design Branch, Engineering Division. He also spent 20 years in Planning Division and

10 years in Construction Division.

As a District employee, Cornish's career was filled with many notable achievements. He enjoyed a reputation in Baltimore District as a leader who could envision entire projects while carefully tracking their details.

When Tropical Storm Agnes hit the eastern seaboard in 1972, Cornish was a key player in coordinating the Corps response efforts. He also be-



Milt and Elsie Cornish

came the first certified senior engineering technician in the District, setting a new standard for others to follow.

In 2001, the Corps honored Cornish with induction into the District's Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees.

Cornish was praised for serving as a role model for minority employees within the Corps of Engineers.

Cornish's son, Michael, said that his father embodies the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

"My dad takes the time to prepare himself thoroughly for any task he takes on," said Michael Cornish, who is also chief of Engineering and Technical Services at the District's Realty Services field office in Linthicum. "His life's journey and career with the Corps of

Engineers are testaments to his supreme character. I am very proud to have him as my mentor and even more so as my dad."

Cornish lives in Pikesville with his wife, Elsie. He and Elsie will celebrate 46 years of marriage later this month. In addition to Michael, the couple has three daughters. They also have four grandchildren.

Cornish's hobbies include listening to music and collecting audio and visual equipment. He has a large collection of old records and four surround-sound systems in his home. In the future, Cornish plans to travel and spend more time with his family.

Although Cornish is happy to be retired, he said that he really misses the time he spent with District employees.

"The District's workers made my job at the Corps very enjoyable," said Cornish. "It's the people who ultimately make the District."

Tolchester silos removed (continued from cover)

manager for contractor Plexus Scientific. "They were about 1,800 to 2,000 cubic yards apiece." Baltimore District employed Plexus to permanently close the silos at Tolchester.

"These silos were constructed in one continuous pour," said Vince Barber, Plexus's site manager, describing the construction method that would have made it very difficult and expensive to demolish and remove the subterranean structures.

The closure project was started in April 2002 with enough funding to finish one silo. Plexus completed the first silo closure in May 2002. In January, with additional money then available, Plexus returned to Tolchester to plug the other five.

"We were fortunate to find funding—a combination of year-end and prior-year funds—to accelerate the project," said Jack Butler, Baltimore District's project manager. The total effort cost about \$1 million.

The procedure

"The first thing we do is remove all the water," Barber said. Plexus found the silos about half full with accumulated rain and percolated water. The contractor tested the water, and with permission from the Maryland Department of the Environment, pumped the uncontaminated water onto nearby land at a controlled rate, he said.

Workers then cleaned the silos of debris and cut off the huge steel doors. They removed the piping and the residual hydraulic fluid from inside the silos. Plexus later turned the fluid over to a recycler.

"Then we remove the platform, the structure under the



After a silo is cleaned out and the initial layers of fill have been placed, a ramp is built down into the cavity so that a bulldozer can be taken down and used to distribute fill material throughout the space. (Photo courtesy of Plexus Scientific)

platform and then the ram unit," Barber said. A subcontractor took out and disposed of the asbestos from inside the silos. Plexus knocked holes in the silo floors to allow water to drain.

Next, Barber and his crew placed pea stone in a 6-inch layer across the bottom of the main silo enclosures, then a sheet of fabric and about a 4 inches of sand. Then, they built gravel ramps, so that a small bulldozer could be brought down from ground level.

The bulldozer pushed the fill material—pea stone, debris, sand and gravel—away from the area beneath the rectangular overhead openings and up against the silos' sides. An excavator pressed the fill into the overhead voids between the hefty concrete ceiling beams.

Each silo included an enclosed office area that was accessed by a single door. To fill these, the contractor scraped the earth off the office areas and collapsed the ceilings. Then they filled the office areas with pea stone.

When the silo cavities were packed, the openings were



Asbestos is removed during the silo closure project at Tolchester. (Photo courtesy of Plexus Scientific)

covered with dirt, compacted and mounded slightly to offset expected future settling.

Lessons learned

Along the way, Plexus applied knowledge gained last year from the closure of the first silo. For example, Barber brought in a larger excavator for silos two through six.

"I can lift bigger pieces of steel," Barber said. "Then I can size and cut it better in an open space."



Vince Barber of Plexus Scientific labels drums of fluids removed from the silos at Tolchester.

(Photo by Art Smit)



Pea stone is poured into an office area from above because access to the offices from inside the silos is limited.

(Photo by Jack Butler)



After the first silo is closed, backfilled and graded, it is almost invisible within Kent County's storage yard.

(Photo courtesy of Plexus Scientific)

According to Garger, they also adjusted the work sequence. Rather than completing one silo at a time, a staggered system proved more efficient.

"As we were working on one silo, we'd be pumping water from another silo," Garger said. "We'd get that one straightened out to where the asbestos work could be done." In that way, the asbestos subcontractor and the Plexus workers would be working in separate silos and not holding each other up, he said.

Butler sees the techniques developed during the Tolchester effort as a plus for other similar projects.

"The lessons learned from this experience will be applied to a number of Nike silo closure projects in Maryland and Pennsylvania in the years to come," Butler said.

Owner benefits

The Army transferred the former Nike launch area to Kent County in 1983. The county stores roadwork supplies and equipment on the 22-acre

parcel, which is situated near the Chesapeake Bay in a remote area on the western fringe of the county.

"Safety is the big thing," said Carter Stanton, Kent County public works director, commenting on what the silo closure means for the county.

The huge silo doors had been welded shut, but vandals broke the welds. The tops of the silos were considered unsafe for supporting heavy materials. Now that the silos have been filled and covered, the county is able to use that property for storage.

"It certainly does give us more area to work," Stanton said.

Cleanup nearly complete

The Tolchester installation is one of 47 formerly used defense sites, referred to as FUDS, that the District is currently cleaning

up. The Tolchester site was active from 1954 to 1967. It included a control area and a launch area.

The District removed nine underground storage tanks from the control and launch areas in 2000.

A third cleanup action is ongoing. That action involves low-level groundwater contamination with trichloroethylene, commonly known as TCE, at the launch area.

The TCE contamination is expected to attenuate—lessen—naturally over time. The Corps samples the groundwater twice a year to determine whether that is happening as anticipated.

"Monitored natural attenuation is doing what it's supposed to be doing," said Curtis DeTore of the Maryland Department of the Environment.

"We've been taking groundwater samples, and they've shown, basically, what we thought they were going to show." DeTore oversees the groundwater cleanup for the state.

"We've completed the first two years of monitoring," Butler said. "We've seen some changes in the groundwater, but we want to see more evidence. We will continue to monitor until we reach a joint decision with MDE." He estimates the monitoring could be needed for another one or two years.

"We want a good, solid, scientific case that natural attenuation is working before we close the project out," Butler said.

With all traces gone of the six silos and the nine underground storage tanks, only the groundwater monitoring remains of the Tolchester FUDS projects.

Beware of Internet hoaxes, e-mail scams

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

In this global age, one of the most prevalent places where deception exists is the Internet. Every day hundreds of people forward e-mail warnings to their friends, family and co-workers, often unaware that the messages they are sending are fabrications.

According to college professors Judee Burgoon and David Buller, people are often unable to tell that these messages are hoaxes because humans have a truth bias – or a persistent expectation that people will tell the truth. Most people assume that everyone is telling the truth, so deception often becomes difficult to spot.

In spite of this bias, there are always people out there who aim to deceive others. Here are some examples of false e-mail messages that are frequently circulated:

Example 1:

Summary of rumor: An e-mail warning says you need to take personal action by July 1 to keep your name from being sold to mailing lists by some of the companies you do business with. Some versions say that otherwise, the companies can give the information to anyone who asks. They also list telephone numbers you can call to accomplish the same thing with credit bureaus.

Truth: It is not true that credit bureaus can share your personal information with anyone who asks. According to the Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1997, businesses must have a “permissible purpose” (i.e.,

planning to give a loan, rent or sell a home to an individual or planning to employ an individual) to access credit reports. One can, however, call 1-888-5OPTOUT to prevent their names from being distributed on marketing lists.

Example 2:

Summary of rumor: African-Americans are entitled to a \$5,000 slavery reparation tax credit.

Truth: The “reparations credit” does not and never has existed. Be careful about claiming this credit because you can be subject to fines and penalties.

Example 3:

Summary of rumor: A woman allegedly called police to tell them there was a crying baby at her door. The police warned her not to go outside and said that a killer had been using a recording of a baby’s cry to get women to open their doors and come outside.

Truth: Police departments and news organizations say there is no record of anyone ever using a crying baby to lure victims.

Hoaxes on the Internet have existed for quite some time – and they will continue to surface again and again. However, there are many steps a person can take to avoid being the victim of a hoax or passing on an e-mail hoax to a friend.

Websites like _____ and www.truthorfiction.com serve



as excellent resources for detecting hoaxes. By visiting one of these websites, one can type the subject of interest into the search engine and receive information on the subject’s validity.

In cases where specific agencies like the IRS or the credit bureaus are mentioned, one can directly contact these agencies about the validity of the e-mail message.

There is still no perfect remedy for determining which e-mail messages are true and which ones are false. In most cases, the deception will be hard to spot anyway. Still, the best defenses from being the victim of a hoax are to consult with a professional and use one’s better judgment.

Data compiled from
www.snopes.com and
www.truthorfiction.com

Knitting: A new trend in Baltimore District

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

A quick look into how Baltimore District workers spend their lunch hour will reveal a variety of answers. Some employees take a walk to the harbor to dine at a small café, while others head to the FEDS Fitness Center to work off some unwanted pounds. Still, others opt to eat lunch at their desk and snuggle up with a good novel.

But a new lunch trend has formed in Baltimore District. Many employees are choosing to spend their lunch breaks doing something they love – knitting. The unofficial knitting club, meets at various locations throughout the City Crescent Building to share knitting techniques, ideas and projects.

Martha Trent, a legal assistant in the Office of Counsel, says that she enjoys meeting with fellow knitters because knitting provides her with a sense of relief.

“I think it’s great to find other people who share the same interests as you,” said Trent. “Knitting offers one a nice break during the day. It allows you to relax.”

But Karen Reed, a District realty specialist, knits for other reasons. Reed said that she knits because she wants to keep the craft alive.

“In today’s society, knitting has become a lost art,” said Reed. “I am always willing to teach young women how to knit because I don’t want the art to die.”

Reed, who has been knitting

for over 50 years, has taught knitting at the YMCA and other locations.

Like Reed, the District’s other knitters are always willing to teach others to knit. Theresa Webb, a District personnel management specialist, has taught many of the younger women in her office how to knit.

“I like teaching it,” said Webb, who has been knitting for almost

sure about 10 inches long.

Trent, who started knitting 15 years ago, often uses her yarn to make presents for others. She says it is rewarding to knit for others.

“I like to see the look on a person’s face when they receive my gift,” said Trent. “It makes me happy to see that I have made someone else happy.”

Like Trent, Webb said that she also knits presents. When her daughter had a bridal shower, Webb knitted dishcloths that were used as party favors for the shower’s attendees.

In addition to traditional projects, the knitters have also taken on a few benevolent projects.

“We knitted squares of material that were used to make blankets for the homeless,” said Webb.

Although none of the District’s knitters have chosen knitting as a professional career, knitting is still a respected trade in many of the world’s economies. Originally, knitting remained entirely confined to making socks and women’s stockings, but, today, knitted cardigans, skirts, scarves, hats and sportswear are part of everyday wardrobes.

Reed, who often wears sweaters and socks that she knitted herself, said that it is important not to regard knitting as a mere leisure activity.

“Good knitters know that knitting is more than a hobby,” said Reed. “Knitting is labor-intensive, and it requires the same professionalism that you bring to your workplace.”



Martha Trent often knits afghans like the one above for her family and friends.

two years. “Knitting is a stress-reliever, and it eases your mind.”

Webb also said that the group is open to anyone who has an interest in knitting.

Members of the knitting group have learned to make such items as afghans, sweaters, socks, dishcloths and wall-hangers.

One of Webb’s students is Information Management’s Maggie Poliszczuk who knits only one row each day she visits the lunchtime group. She is making a scarf that now mea-

District leaders visit Poplar Island – The group receives a briefing about the marsh planting that is ongoing at Poplar Island.

After two rain postponements, Baltimore's division and office chiefs embarked on Poplar Island June 18.

Scott Johnson, acting deputy district engineer for support operations, briefed the group on the history of the island, the Corps' work to date and plans for the future.



District celebrates completion of Detrick housing project

Baltimore District Commander Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., joined several dignitaries who spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new \$5-million Fort Detrick Army Family Housing Project May 27. The ceremony opened the housing project three months ahead of schedule.

"This was an exemplary partnership between the design and construction teams at Harkins Builders, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the community of Fort

Detrick," said Fiala.

The new 36, three-bedroom quadraplex units provide 1,500 square feet of living space, along with modern day amenities such as central air-conditioning and heat, walk-in closets, upgrades in storage space, separate laundry rooms and more convenient parking.

Two one-story units were built with customizable features to accommodate the particular requirements of handicapped residents. Additionally, the new road around

these units improves access and safety for residents.

The original concept of this project was to improve the existing family housing units, and reduce escalating operation and maintenance costs of the quarters that were built in the early 1950s.

Among some of the dignitaries who shared in the ceremony were Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, City of Frederick Mayor Jennifer P. Dougherty and Frederick County Commissioner John R. Lovell, Jr.

eBay, not the only Internet auction game in town

There are many websites that serve as auction houses. Some have faster searches with more targeted results than eBay and fewer bidders to drive up prices. Here are four alternatives for shoppers and sellers:

- auctionport.com specializes in antiques and collectibles. It has great tutorials and live auctions where you can bid in real time. *The downside:* Some of the categories are empty, and

some have few selections.

- bidfields.com is an easy-to-use site that is similar to eBay. It lists over 5,000 kinds of items, and large retailers are banned.

The downside: It has an unusual fee structure that charges extra for such things as listing on the site's front page.

- ePier.com is a recently reorganized eBay look alike. It has forums that offer buying and selling tips from profes-

sionals. Because of its nice design, it's easy to search and list items.

The downside: It has more sellers than buyers. That's good for buyers, but not for sellers.

- ioffer.com is something of a flea market site. It encourages haggling. If you want a specific item, you can place a free ad to notify sellers. *The downside:* The site is growing, but some subcategories have limited choices, according to AARP magazine.

Change of Command ceremony scheduled

A Change of Command ceremony to say goodbye to Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., who will retire from the U.S. Army, and welcome the new Baltimore District commander, Col. Robert J. Davis, Jr., is scheduled for Aug. 1 at the Wyndham

Hotel, Fayette Street, Baltimore.

All employees and retirees are invited to attend the ceremony, which will begin at 10 a.m. A reception for employees to meet the new commander will be in the City Crescent Building in the afternoon.

Corps joins dignitaries at Chesapeake Bay ceremony to honor former senator

At a ceremony honoring retired U.S. Senator Charles Mathias, Jr., a pioneering leader in restoring the Chesapeake Bay, the president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation made a strong push for increased regulatory pressures to improve the conditions of the Bay.

"There simply must be a binding, legal framework if the agreed-upon goals are to be met," said William C. Baker, president of the foundation.

Thirty years ago, Mathias spear-headed the movement to restore the Bay by recommending the creation of an interstate compact commission to oversee anti-pollution efforts, similar to the one now governing use of the Potomac River.

Today, the 81-year-old elder statesman continues to express his passion for the improvement of the Bay.

"We may, in fact, have done some of the easier things...and now we have to face some of the more difficult ones. There are tough times ahead," Mathias said.

The Chesapeake Bay Commission estimates that it would cost \$20 billion dollars to restore the Bay by the end of the de-

cade. As of yet, state and federal government agencies have appropriated only \$5.9 billion.

In 1983, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia joined the effort to advance the cause, but no one has produced the dollars or programs to effectively regulate the chief causes of pollution in the Bay.

Some fear that without an increased budget, however, this problem may never go away. According to former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Russell Train, "It's probably going to be a job that we'll live with forever."

Senior Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes and John W. Warner both attended the event.



Former Senator Charles Mathias

News you can use

August Constellation due out around Aug. 11

Because of the Change of Command ceremony Aug. 1, the Constellation will not be distributed before Aug. 11.

The full story and photographs of the ceremony will be printed in this issue.

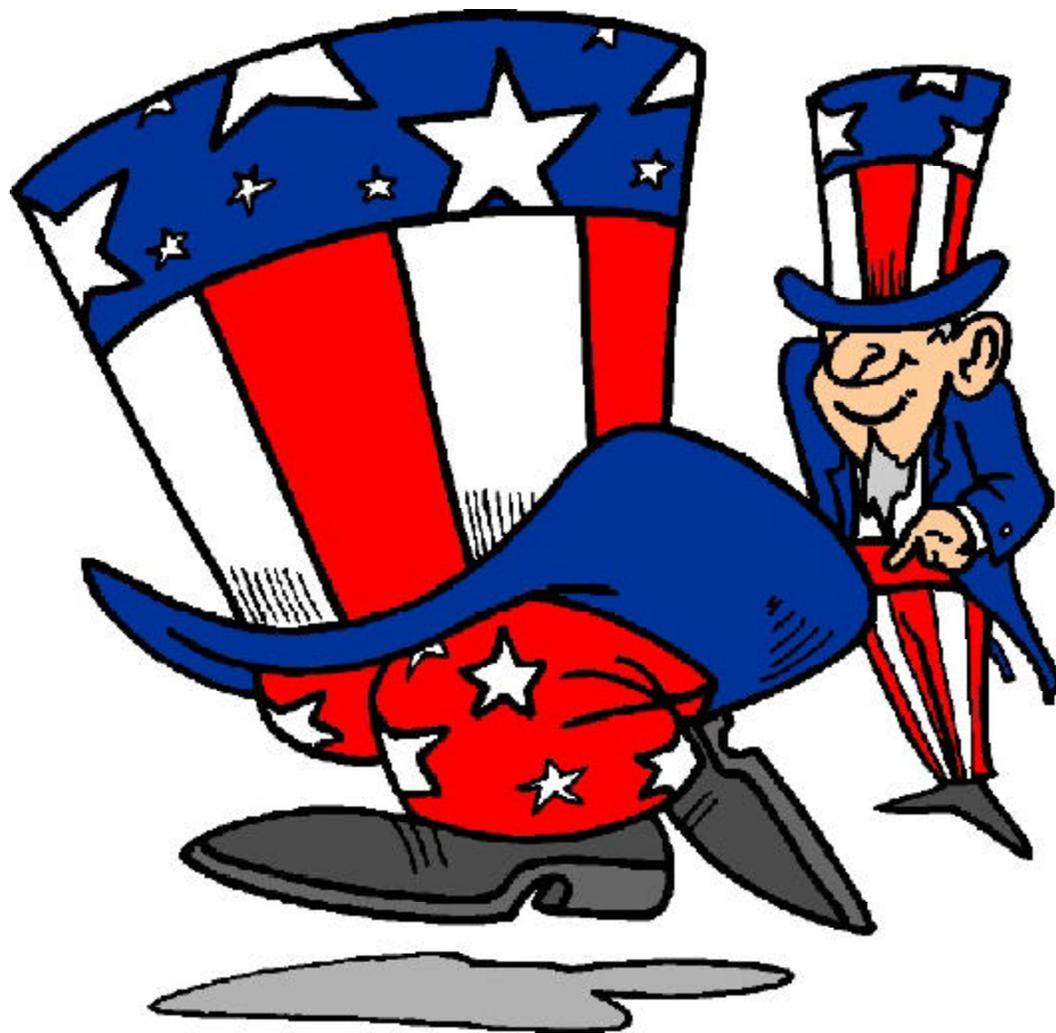
Trivia

Why are there piggy banks and not doggy banks? According to the trivia goldmine, Straightdope.com, the old English word pygg (pronounced pugg) meant a type of clay used in kitchen pottery. As the language evolved, the word started to sound more like pygg, and craftsmen designed pygg pots in the shape of pigs. The rest is history.

Saving money

If you save \$2,000 each year in your 20s (and nothing thereafter), by the time you are 65, you would have \$152,938 when invested at 5 percent.

Try these savings that add up to \$166 a month: save 50 cents a day in loose change; drink 12 fewer cans of soda a month, \$6; instead of cappuccino, have 20 cups of coffee, \$40; avoid late fees, \$60; eat out two times less per month, \$30; borrow instead of buying a CD or book, \$15.



Happy 4th of July!