



CONSTELLATION

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Cleanup begins at Tobyhanna

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Pennsylvania officials have launched a rare partnership that will ultimately lead to the cleanup of one of

the nation's former military sites.

The Corps has agreed to allow the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, or PADEP, to complete an Engineering Evaluation/Cost

Analysis, referred to as an EE/CA, study to evaluate the extent of unexploded ordnance, or UXO, contamination at the former Tobyhanna Artillery Range, Tobyhanna, Pa. Under this agreement, PADEP will provide the state funds needed to complete this comprehensive study, while the Corps will retain its responsibility of technical oversight.

Both Corps and PADEP officials say they are proud of this agreement because it marks an unusual move in the history of the Formerly Used Defense Site program, which is managed by the Corps.

"This is a unique project," said Nicki Fatherly, Corps design team leader for the Tobyhanna project. "It is rare for a state agency to provide funds for conducting an EE/CA study. Normally, the Corps funds the study as well as any follow-on cleanup."

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania did not suddenly decide to fund the EE/CA study at Tobyhanna, however. This decision was made after a series of events.

History of the park

From 1912 to 1949, the Army and the Pennsylvania



George Follett (front), a District OE safety specialist and Ron Merring, a Tobyhanna State Park official, use a Schonstedt magnetometer to provide ordnance and explosives clearance at Tobyhanna State Park this spring.

(Continued on p. 6)



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

Safety – a state of mind

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

In my first few weeks as your commander, one thing is clearly evident. We are busy!

We are initiating and completing many complex construction projects. Many of us are traveling (to remote sites to work or to leisure sites to vacation); many of us are finishing summer home improvement projects; and some of us are continuing our hard work at placing the final touches on reports, plans, studies and in keeping the District humming along.

Every engine that runs at its maximum capacity needs some periodic maintenance, such as having the oil and spark

plugs replaced.

Safety is one of those underlying "maintenance" items that must always be present, visible and necessary for the engine to run smoothly.

Safety is a "state of mind" that is ever present during all our activities. I'm very appreciative of taking over a District with a solid safety record, but safety involves much more than tracking the number of injuries and lost time accidents.

I'd like you to take a moment to ask yourself, "How can I perform my job in a safer manner and make the District a safer place to work?"

Your answer might be as simple as "I'm going to start keeping my back straighter when I lift that

next box of paperwork," or "I'm going to become fitter and visit the gym more often."

The answer might be more complex, such as, "I'm going to include a more comprehensive and enforceable safety part of the Project Management Plan," or "I will not let the contractor proceed during this phase of the project until he fixes an unsafe condition at the construction site."

Whatever the answer, take a moment to examine your safety "consciousness," make any needed adjustments and continue to take wonderful care of each other, our stakeholders, our partners, our customers and our contractors.

Huuah!

Think safety!

Resource Management prepares for year-end closing

It's that time of year again when District employees prepare for year-end activities. To help with this closing process, following is general information, as well as a list of cutoff dates and Resource Management Office points of contact.

General information

1. Cash awards must be processed in MODERN for the pay period ending, or PPE, **Sept. 6**.
2. Contracting Division must obligate all contracts by midnight **Sept. 30**.
3. All obligations entered into PD² must be downloaded into CEFMS before the database rollover begins.
4. Travel orders or airfare obligations may not be accrued. Accruals are estimates that reflect valid, supportable expenses for which goods and services have been rendered, but not invoiced, through **Sept. 30**. Supporting documentation for these accrual estimates will be kept in the organization that established the accrual for review in the event of an audit.
5. CEFMS lockout will occur **Sept. 29**; it is estimated that CEFMS will be open for business Oct. 2.
6. Year-end close out information is posted at the entrance of the Resource Management Office and Contracting Division; on the General Bulletin Board, CEFMS Public Folder; and on the CEFMS Intranet home page.

Unliquidated obligations

(POCs: Charles Lilly, George Harman and Nancy Brengle)

• Final FY03 Unliquidated Obligation Review

Due by **Sept. 5** to the Resource Management Office, Finance and Accounting.

• *Timekeeping due dates*
(POCs: Joe-L Yancey, Tricia Kuta and Nancy Brengle)

Sept. 8 for PPE Sept. 6 by noon.

Sept. 15 for PPE Sept. 20 by 2 p.m.; correct by **Sept. 22**.

Sept. 22—Labor must be estimated for Sept. 21-30 not later than noon; make corrections to PPE **Sept. 20**.

Oct. 3—Post T&A and supervisors certify actual T&A for PPE Oct. 4 (due by noon **Oct. 6**).

Labor disputes resolution due dates

(POCs: Tricia Kuta, Joe-L Yancey, Debbie Kropfelder and Nancy Brengle)

Sept. 10, 22 and 23 to include cost transfers; **Oct. 2** process new labor PR&Cs.

• *Travel due dates*
(POC: Jody Svehla)

Sept. 5—Travel order approving officials must cancel travel orders for trips that were canceled.

Sept. 18—Last day for travel approving official to approve regular travel and local travel vouchers or hold until FY04.

Sept. 19—Final day for UFC to receive regular travel vouchers and local travel vouchers.

Sept. 24—Final day for "Sep 03 Departure" travel orders to be authenticated.

• *Funding transaction cutoff dates*
(POCs: Civil/Military Budget Branch)

Sept. 8—Return significant

funds to Headquarters and customers.

Sept. 23—Final review and return of minor expiring funds/unneeded funds to Headquarters and customers.

• *Collections/disbursements:*
(POCs: Jody Svehla and George Harman)

Sept. 19—Final day for UFC to receive and process collections; final day for UFC to receive government billings, training, SF1164 PR&Cs, receiving reports and blanket purchase agreements.

Sept. 24—Final day to enter accruals.

Sept. 25—Field credit card collections closed; Non-NRRS credit card collections closed; approving official certification of IMPAC credit card due.

Sept. 26—Final day to register and distribute contributed funds; final day for UFC to disburse.

Resource Management Office POCs

Telephone information
(prefix 410-962-XXXX):

Jody Svehla, 2956
George Harman, 0648
Charles Lilly, 3869
Tricia Kuta, 2279
Nancy Brengle, 0646
Joe-L Yancey, 3770
Debbie Kropfelder 2215
Valerie Pence, WA,
202-764-2769

Budget POCs are organized by appropriation responsibility, and the list is posted on the general bulletin board and *Money Talks* Intranet site.

District employee participates in art show

story and photo by
Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Like many employees in Baltimore District, Grant Arnold Anderson stays busy working on Corps projects. Anderson joined the Corps in 1995 and has been actively involved with cleaning up groundwater at Army installations, as well as searching for unexploded ordnance at various sites.

But, Anderson's work does not stop at the end of the day. When he is not involved with Corps projects, he is working on art projects at home. Anderson, 47, is an emerging artist who uses much of his spare time to create portraits of the human figure.

"I have spent years studying the human form in life-drawing studios," said Anderson, "but this is my first series of portraits."

Anderson has created these images by using a mixture of graphite and encaustic wax. According to Anderson, the process of creating these images is quite a detailed one, involving traditional drawing and painting techniques, combined with the manipulation of hot wax via torch. It normally takes him three days to complete one image.

In addition to employing live models, the artist uses photos collected on the Internet to create his images.

According to Anderson, one of the most rewarding aspects of his art is seeing his progress over time.

"The most important thing about the whole art process, however, was the fact that I was able to develop greatly as an artist," said Anderson. "Each new piece was technically able to stand on the shoulders of the one that preceded it."



Grant Anderson created these images, "Joe" (left) and "Terry" (right), using graphite and encaustic wax.

Anderson is not the only one to recognize his development as an artist. The Maryland Federation of Art recently selected Anderson to participate in a two-person show at the Federation's City Gallery. Anderson said he is honored that eight of his portraits of African-American men will be on display.

"I've never seen an entire show of portraits of African-American men before," said Anderson. "The subject is rather under-represented in the arts."

Like Anderson, the staff of

the Maryland Federation of Art said they are proud of Anderson's accomplishments.

"I was excited to learn that Grant was selected because I knew his work would be beautiful," said Pamela Wilson, executive director of the Maryland Federation of Art.

Anderson was born in Montana. He holds a bachelor's degree in geophysical engineering from Montana Tech and a master's degree from Ohio State University.

Just as Anderson loves his art, he said he also loves his job at the Corps. He said he would not have been able to develop as an artist if he did not have flexible working conditions.

"It's nice to have a job that allows me to use my annual leave and vacation to work on my art," said Anderson. "I am proud of the work I do as an artist and as a hydrogeologist in the Corps. Both jobs have been very rewarding."

Anderson's portraits—as well as the assemblages of another artist, Tom Wells—can be seen at the Maryland Federation of Art, City Gallery, 330 N. Charles St., through Sept. 20. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A special reception for Anderson and Wells will be held Sept. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m., and a talk with both artists will occur Sept. 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. The gallery is about a 10-minute walk from the City Crescent Building.

Protect yourself when outside — at work or at play

West Nile virus is not something found only in Africa, West Asia or the Middle East. By the end of last year, it had been detected in 44 states, with human cases reported in 39 states and the District of Columbia since 1999.

The virus is spread by mosquitoes to birds and other animals through a mosquito bite. It normally passes between mosquitoes and birds. However, people may also be infected if they are bitten by an infected mosquito.

The most likely route of infection to humans is through the bite of an infected mosquito, although there are other ways, too.

Most human infections cause either mild flu-like symptoms or no symptoms at all. Mild symptoms may include fever, fatigue, headache and muscle or joint pain.

Although rare, some people may become severely ill. Severe symptoms may include high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, tremors, muscle weakness and paralysis.

Severely affected persons may develop encephalitis, meningitis, or meningoencephalitis—inflammation of the brain, membranes of the brain or spinal cord, or both, respectively. Severe cases may be fatal. Persons over the age of 50 are at higher risk of severe illness.

Who is at risk?

People who are most at risk include those working outdoors when mosquitoes are actively biting—farmers, foresters, landscapers, groundskeepers, painters, roofers, pavers, con-

struction workers and other outdoor workers. But anyone who is outside while mosquitoes are most active—from dusk to dawn—can be at risk.

Mosquitoes develop in any standing body of water that persists for more than four days. Stagnant pools, ponds, watering troughs, irrigation ditches, rain barrels, manure lagoons and other stagnant bodies of water increase mosquito populations. Weedy, bushy and wooded work environments may also have large mosquito populations.

How can you protect yourself?

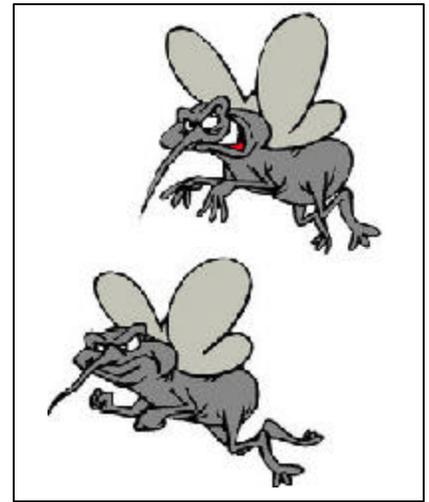
You can reduce your risk of exposure by taking the following action steps:

Insect repellent

- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin.
- Carefully follow label directions for repellent use.
- Do not apply pump or aerosol products directly to your face. These products should be sprayed onto your hands and then carefully rubbed over your face, avoiding the eyes and mouth.
- Use repellents at the lowest effective concentrations.
- The most effective insect repellents contain DEET, and the more DEET a repellent contains, the longer it will protect against mosquito bites. DEET concentrations higher than 50 percent do not increase its length of protection.
- Wash skin treated with insect repellent with soap and water after returning indoors.

Clothing

- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors.



- Spray clothing with products containing DEET or permethrin because mosquitoes may penetrate thin clothing.

- Permethrin should only be used on clothing; do not apply directly to skin.

- Wash clothing treated with insect repellent before wearing it again.

- Do not apply repellent to skin that is under clothing.

What to do if you have symptoms?

Anyone who develops mild or severe symptoms of West Nile virus should contact his or her health care provider immediately. If you are at risk of infection, a biological sample may be tested for infection. The period from the infected bite to developing symptoms is reported to be three to 15 days.

Is there a treatment?

No specific treatment exists for West Nile virus infection. Treatment consists of supportive care to treat the symptoms. Currently, no approved vaccine exists to prevent infection in humans.

Tobyhanna cleanup

(continued from cover)

National Guard used the lands that today comprise Tobyhanna State Park and State Game Land 127 for artillery and machine gun training. Through the years since then, unexploded shells and shrapnel have been found at several locations within the 20,000-acre range. The range became inactive after World War II, and its lands were conveyed to the commonwealth in 1949.

While the state park and game land are classified as a formerly used defense site, the ordnance and explosives investigations were not scheduled to begin until the year 2016, with clearing operations to follow in future years.

New discoveries accelerated this date, however.

Between 1997 and 1998, over 275 unexploded munitions were found at Tobyhanna State Park. Most of the ordnance used then were 75 mm and 155 mm artillery rounds.

The Corps conducted a time-critical removal action (TCRA), recovering the munitions from the park's developed areas and safely destroying them. Although portions of the park and game land were reopened in late 1998, the Corps continued to monitor the site.

Game lands closed

In April 2003, a portion of the state game land was closed to all visitors after a preliminary review by the Corps of Engineers indicated a number of metallic items buried along one of the main roads used to access these lands.

"One of our safety specialists



This 75 mm shrapnel round, which was recently found at Tobyhanna, looks empty, but it still has an unexploded charge.

found several anomalies buried in the areas that we surveyed throughout State Game Land 127," said Jack Butler, the Corps project manager.

"These anomalies have the magnetic signature of UXOs found in the state park."

According to Butler, "frost heave," the upward movement of buried items caused by repeated freezing and thawing of the ground, is the most likely reason why so many anomalies are being found more than 50 years after Tobyhanna was last used as an artillery range.

Community reaction

Since the discovery in April, the Corps has determined that the former Tobyhanna Artillery Range has an extremely high risk of potential harm to the public if UXO is found there. Because the Corps could not fund an EE/CA study of the project until 2016, Pennsylvania agreed to provide

financial support for the study.

But Tobyhanna is special for another reason, according to Fatherly.

"We are conducting two actions at once at Tobyhanna," she said.

"While we're assisting PADEP with the EE/CA, we are also conducting a time-critical removal action in the state game land."

During a time critical removal action, UXO items are dug up and safely destroyed or neutralized.

This simultaneous action is beneficial for both governmental agencies, according to John Mellow, a geologist and regional project officer for the PADEP EE/CA effort.

"The project will be a cost-savings to the commonwealth and the Corps of Engineers," said Mellow.

While Corps and PADEP officials agree that the coopera-

(Photos courtesy Baltimore District)

tion between the two agencies saves each thousands of dollars, both also agree that the environment will be the main beneficiary of this project.

“The ultimate goal of this project is a better environment for all,” said Mellow.

Community reaction

Today, the EE/CA study is still in its initial stage. The removal action is scheduled for completion next year, while the EE/CA is expected to take two years to complete.

Mellow said he is proud of the ability of the federal and state governments to work together.

“We are having a very good working experience with the Corps,” said Mellow. “Both the state contractors and the Corps employees are integrating their work very well.”

PADEP and the Corps of Engineers are not the sole parties responsible for the progress of the project, however. The local authorities are also working well with both agencies to clean up the Tobyhanna Artillery Range, according to Fatherly.

“Although we are only in the initial stages of the project, the county, townships and local authorities are looking forward to helping us,” said Fatherly.

“This project is going to take a lot of coordination between the government agencies and the local community. All of the stakeholders in this project are working together to ensure we keep Tobyhanna State Park and Game Land safe for everyone in the community.”



Corps and Pennsylvania officials have posted signs at the entrance of State Game Land 127 to remind visitors to be safe.



George Follett touches a 155 mm shrapnel round on Tobyhanna park land.

District meets with Spring Valley residents

Baltimore District conducted a public meeting in Washington, D.C., Aug. 5 to discuss the draft final Engineer Evaluation/Cost Analysis report, or EE/CA.

The draft report covers the Corps' continuing investigation and restoration of the Spring Valley formerly used defense site in northwest Washington, D.C., and provides a justification for the proposed non-time-critical removal action of arsenic contaminated soils.

The report was released for

public comment July 23. Details of the report and how residents can obtain copies of the report were discussed at the public meeting.

Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, and the D.C. Department of Health attended the meeting and assisted the Corps in addressing resident questions.

District officials estimate about 30 residents attended the meeting, which began with a project

update. Discussion of the EE/CA document followed. The meeting closed with a break out session where residents could speak one-on-one with agency officials.

The 45-day public comment period is scheduled to end Sept. 5.

Baltimore District and regulatory agencies will address comments, finalize the EE/CA report, and move forward with the soil removals at over 100 residential properties in the Spring Valley neighborhood.

Young engineer talks to students about Corps work

Earl A. Gilliam, Jr. is just beginning his career in government service, but he has already learned to give back to the community.

Gilliam, a structural engineer in the District's Engineering



Earl Gilliam talks to a group of students.

Division Design Branch is committed to telling youngsters about the advantages of choosing a career with the Corps.

"The Corps is a great place that offers a lot of training and travel opportunities," said Gilliam. "The jobs at the Corps vary greatly—and no person's experience with the Corps is exactly the same."

Gilliam's past audiences have included elementary school students in the District of Columbia Public Schools and high schools students in the Gilman Upward Bound Program and Baltimore Urban Debate League.

"I think it is important for young people to see other young people do something positive," said Gilliam. "The students were very interested in my message."

Gilliam, 25, is a former member of Gilman's Upward Bound program. He graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1996 and received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Morgan State University in 2000. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Although he has only been a Corps employee for two years, Gilliam has already developed a respect for the organization. He said he hopes to inspire other young children by telling them the rewards of a Corps job.

"When kids are exposed to new things, they have more to dream about," said Gilliam. "I think it is important to give back to the community because that's the only way I learned."

Readership survey online now

Employees can visit <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/pubs/update.htm> to take the readership survey for the *Engineer Update*.

Space consolidation at CCB now complete

The two final phases of the City Crescent Building space consolidation project were completed last month.

Phase 4 involved consolidating the District library into a smaller area on the 9th floor, and moving the Security Office adjacent to the library.

Contracting Division was consolidated to accommodate the relocated Small Business Office, and a new general storage room on the 7th floor was created. Modifications were also made to the Union office,

which remains on the 4th floor.

Phase 5 created a permanent office for the PM Service Center next to the Executive Office on the 11th floor, and moved some offices within Planning Division and Programs and Project Management to achieve more efficient space utilization.

The goal of the Space Consolidation project was to attain rental cost savings through space reduction. As a result, over 14,000 square feet of space was relinquished, producing a savings of approximately \$400,000 per year.

Employees deal with computer outage

Electronic worms bored through the District's computer servers Aug. 20, leaving employees wryly questioning what they used to do before they had computers.

"All day has been like pulling out my hair," said Ben Rooney, Programs and Project Management, as worms shut down access to email, the Internet and servers.

"I can't write PMPs (project manager plans), can't do schedules and can't get to the project directory on the share drive," said Claire O'Neill, PPMD. O'Neill, like others, spent the day on phone calls, reading, and talking face-to-face with others.

"Kibitzing," said Jim Rich, Contracting, describing the groups in hallways.

"I've been walking around asking all the questions I've

wanted to ask," said Maj. David Pedersen, Executive Office.

Theresa Webb and Mary Bogdan, Human Resources, said they had several visitors and phone calls. Many employees, it seems, took the opportunity to ask about personnel issues they hadn't taken time to investigate before.

Others worked on backlogged filing or on tasks that had been stored on their computers, instead of on servers.

By the end of the day, most operations were restored.



Claire O'Neill and Sandy Gore, PPMD, kibitz.

(Photo by Chris Augsburger)

News you can use

Army Ten-Miler

The 19th annual Army Ten-Miler, the largest 10-mile race, is scheduled for Oct. 5 at the Pentagon South parking lot.

Volunteers are needed to help with the production of the event Oct. 3 and 4 as well as race day, Oct. 5.

All volunteers receive a special Army Ten-Miler long sleeved T-shirt. Groups receive a commemorative plaque and recognition on the race website and in the Runner Program. All volunteers must be at least 12 years of age.

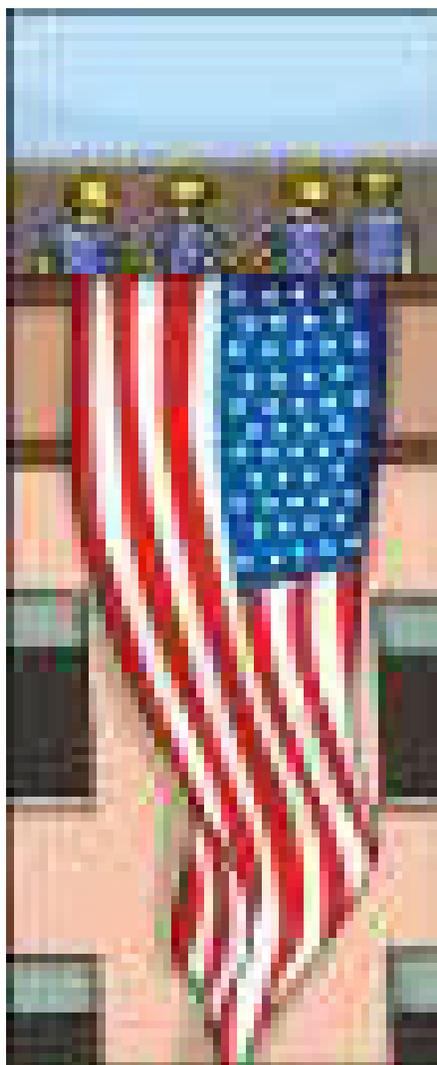
If you are interested, check out this website for further information:
[http://www.armytenmiler.com/
exec/army/
Volunteer_Positions.cfm?publicationID=16](http://www.armytenmiler.com/exec/army/Volunteer_Positions.cfm?publicationID=16)

Student loan interest lowers

On July 1, the rates on the federally guaranteed Stafford loans fell to 2.82 percent for those still in school and to 3.42 percent for graduates.

Interest on the PLUS Loan for parents fell to 4.22 percent from 4.86 percent.

Those who have two or more loans have until June 30, 2004, to consolidate them in order to take advantage of these lower rates.



**Sept. 11--We will
never forget**