



CONSTELLATION

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Chief of Engineers visits Baltimore District

By Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, shared his vision for the future of the Corps and commended Baltimore District on its successes during the District town hall at the Baltimore Convention Center Dec. 2.

Strock said the Corps' No. 1 priority for the future is supporting the Global War on Terrorism.



(Photo by Tex Jobe, Information Management)

Stan Gembicki, chief of Engineering Division, poses a question during the Q-and-A session with Lt. Gen. Strock.



(Photo by Tex Jobe, Information Management)

Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, explains his vision for the Corps during the town hall Dec. 2.

And Baltimore has stepped up to the plate, according to Strock.

"Baltimore is doing a great job of supporting this priority," said Strock.

"About 120 District employees – about 10 percent of your workforce – have deployed to support the Global War on Terror."

Other Corps' priorities include responding to disasters and acts of terrorism, supporting the Corps' ongoing Military and Civil Works missions and transforming the Corps into "one headquarters."

"'One headquarters' simply means reducing the layers of review to get things done," said Strock.

During the town hall, Strock also presented awards to District

employees, including several chief of engineers' coins, the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, the Army Achievement Medal and the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service.

In addition, Strock presented the 2005 Project Delivery Team Honor Award to the members of the Advanced Chemistry Lab Project Delivery Team.

The chief of engineers said members of Baltimore District should be proud of their contributions to the Corps.

"Baltimore District is a flagship District," said Strock.

"The Corps is nothing without its people."

In
this
issue:

Deploying to Pakistan



Page 7

Holiday Decorating Tips



Page 9



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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District Engineer:
Col. Robert J. Davis

Acting Public Affairs Chief:
Mary Beth Thompson

Editor:
Chanel S. Weaver

Layout & Design Editor:
Shawn M. Walleck

Contributors:
Joyce M. Conant
Christopher Augsburger
Angela Moore

IMO photographers:
Tex Jobe
Susanne Bledsoe



Commander's Comment

District's support to Fort Detrick, Md.

By Col. Robert J. Davis
Commander and District Engineer

This month, I'd like to highlight our ongoing support to Fort Detrick, Md. Fort Detrick is located in north-central Maryland, just north of the intersection of Interstate 70 and Interstate 270. The installation has a long association with military medicine and actually received its name in honor of flight surgeon Dr. Frederick L. Detrick of the 104th Aero Squadron of the 29th Division (Maryland National Guard).

So great was the respect and admiration for Dr. Detrick that the unit unanimously voted to name its small airfield as "Detrick Field" in 1931. The name stuck, becoming Camp Detrick in 1943 and Fort Detrick in 1956.

This unique garrison is now led by Col. Mary Deutsch. Approximately 5,800 military, federal and contractor personnel are assigned on Fort Detrick with the primary missions of developing medical biological defenses, medical materiel

acquisition, medical logistics, medical information technology, and in conducting cancer research. Fort Detrick leads the way within the Department of Defense in developing ways to save military and civilian lives through improved health care delivery on the battlefield and in the hospital.

The two largest tenants of Fort Detrick are the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and the National Cancer Institute-Frederick. The post is also the home of the headquarters of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. The nearly 500 employees of USAMRIID include physicians, veterinarians, microbiologists, pathologists, chemists, molecular biologists, physiologists and pharmacologists. Employees of the NCI-F conduct basic research into the fundamental biologic nature of cancer; cancer genetics; how tumors form, progress, and metastasize; and how they can be prevented and treated.

Exciting things will be happening at Fort Detrick in the next few years, and the Baltimore

District will be looked upon to help the garrison in the largest buildup that the post has ever seen. New USAMRIID and joint medical logistics facilities will be built, as well as an entire national bio-defense campus that many executive branch agencies will call home.

These activities will bring additional workers and infrastructure needs to the installation, and we will need to be ready to assist. Thanks to Fort Detrick for allowing us to be part of their team!

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

— Essayons



Letters to the editor

Readers write in, share impressions of last month's *Constellation*.



Cut back on paper copies

Dear Editor:

When I saw the link to the November *Constellation* this morning, I was elated. I thought, "what a great idea." We are really getting environmentally smart about paper around here. ... But this afternoon a paper copy appeared in my in-box. Several of my co-workers and I wondered why in the world we would get both versions? Is there really a need to distribute a hard copy? My copy went immediately into the trash can since I had already breezed through the linked file.

To save paper, why doesn't the Public Affairs Office continue sending the hyperlink to the file and then offer paper copies for any who say they need them? This would

seem to be so much more environmentally-friendly. Just a thought,

Claire O'Neill
Planning Division

Claire:

Because all of the District's employees do not have access to e-mail, we send hard copies of the newsletter to each employee. We do print the newsletter on recyclable paper, however.

This is not the first time that we've heard feedback similar to your comments.

Stay tuned for a *Constellation* survey, in which we will ask employees whether they want to receive a hard copy or an electronic link or both.

We will then use the responses to make copy distribution decisions.

Thanks for your feedback, and I am glad that you are enjoying the *Constellation*.

have much personal interest for me or, I suspect, many other CENAB readers. It talks about the various numbered Spiral organizations, but does not tell us which Spiral group the Baltimore District is part of. I am interested in how and when this "transition" will affect the Baltimore District and would like to see an article that gives us a flavor of that.

Thanks,

Susan Platt
Office of Counsel

Susan:

Thank you for your suggestion. We have a story planned for an upcoming issue that will address some of the concerns that you raised.

I am sure that many employees want to know how the National Security Personnel System will affect the Baltimore District, and we will offer an article that makes the process more understandable for employees.

Do you want to sound off about your impressions of the *Constellation*?

Send your letters to:

Chanel Weaver
Constellation Editor
USACE Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203

You may also send e-mails to:
Chanel.Weaver@nab02.usace.army.mil

Happy Reading!

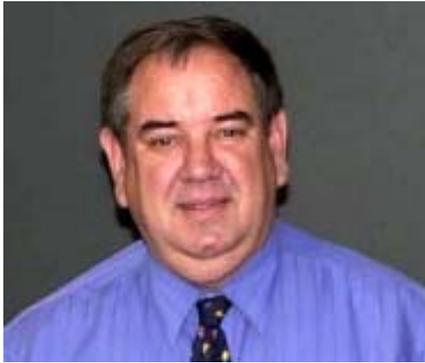
Explain NSPS more thoroughly

Dear Editor:

This is a suggestion.

The article on page 10 of the November issue is about the Department of Defense's new human resource system. It is written in generic terms, though, so it didn't

Why I value the Leadership Development Program



By Joe Phelan
Construction Division

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita conjure images of utter devastation that have touched every American. The television coverage of the physical and emotional hardships endured by the residents of the Gulf Coast resembled scenes normally associated with tragedies found in “third world” nations, which require rapid — and often critical — relief.

To assist in the various emergency missions (ice, power, water, etc.) of the cleanup process, the Emergency Management Branch of the Baltimore District deploys a Rapid Response Vehicle, used to establish an efficient communications platform for the respective mission.

From the time that we started the deployment of the large vehicle with a satellite array until the final stages of the mission, it was important that we maintain the balance of physical, mental and emotional states of every member of the RRV team. And it

REALLY was a TEAM. Because we were situated miles from home, and in the face of physical adversity, we had to keep a cooperative mentality to persevere and succeed.

I was reminded at times of the movie, “Apollo 13,” where the gas scrubber and electrical components were made and checked literally “on the flight.” And like the astronaut and Commander, James Lovell, played by actor Tom Hanks, I, too, was fortunate to be positioned as the leader of an exceptional team. I was also thankful for the training afforded me through the Leadership Development Program.

During the 60 days of deployment, our three-person RRV team was challenged by harsh field conditions, high temperatures, no rain, little sleep, equipment breakdowns and external personality conflicts. We countered such



(Photo by Joe Phelan, Construction Division)

Col. John Minahan, commander of Fort Worth District, talks with a fellow Corps’ representative during recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast.

issues by incorporating a balance of innovative thinking, creative repairs, strong convictions and inspiring communications. Once we were connected by satellite, the RRV team felt

comforted by knowing that there were personnel at Baltimore available if we needed further help and assistance.

As an Army leader, you know the values for which you stand, (Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honesty, Integrity and Personal Courage), are integrated into the work you are doing and observed by others around you. Also, as a leader, people look to you for guidance, direction and answers; while you look to your followers for technical and innovative ideas, and empower and motivate them to excel in the mission.

Finally, as in the case of “Apollo 13,” communication is essential, especially with the home base. Daily situational reports addressed necessary and important issues and kept everyone apprised of any problems and methods of correcting those problems. Foresight and vision become essential to convey meaning to just the right situation. (“Houston... we have a problem”.)

Unfortunately, it is inevitable that hurricanes and other disasters lie in the future. Such disasters are a part of naturally occurring events.

Katrina and Rita were particularly severe hurricanes this year, the kind I personally do not want to see anymore.

I am proud however, to have helped for this year by leading my team and doing but a small part for the Corps and for my country. When I returned Oct. 26, I was tired but thankful to report, “Mission Complete.”

Corps dedicates Sarbanes' trail at Jennings Randolph

By Norm Dennis
Operations Division

The goal of creating trail groups from the states of Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania recently moved one step closer to reality. Baltimore District Commander, Col. Robert J. Davis, dedicated the Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes River Access Trail during a ceremony at Jennings Randolph Lake Oct. 12.

"It's fitting that we dedicate a scenic nature and hiking trail to a man who has spent nearly 40 years in public service working diligently to keep Maryland's environment healthy and vibrant," said Davis.

"From the Maryland House of Delegates, to the U.S. House of Representatives, and finally the United States Senate, Sen. Sarbanes and the Corps of Engineers have shared a close and fruitful partnership in enhancing Maryland's natural resources."

The trail partners consist of representatives from each town and county along the route, as well as trail organizations. Regional partners include the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Canaan Valley Institute, National Park Service's River



(Photo by Norm Dennis, Operations Division)

Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes makes remarks during the dedication ceremony for the trail named in his honor.

and Trails Conservancy Program, the Potomac Conservancy, Potomac Highlands Partnership and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

These partners have worked many years on the goal of creating a bicycle and hiking path from Pittsburgh to the C&O Canal Towpath near Washington, D.C. In the mid-1990s, trail groups in each of the states shared the vision of connecting the three Allegheny Highlands Trails to create a recreational route of national significance. The Allegheny Highlands Trail Partners formed in September 2002 to connect the trails of West Virginia and Maryland.

The concept for the current project, the Great Allegheny Passage, a continuous bicycle and hiking trail from Pittsburgh, Pa., to Washington, D.C., originated with the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area project. This regional grassroots effort integrates Appalachian forest history, culture, natural history, products and forestry management into a tri-state heritage tourism initiative promoting rural community development.

Completion of the Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes River Access Trail provides a vital link in a long chain between Thomas, W. Va., and Cumberland, Md. The trail is 1.75 miles long and provides access to the upper end of the North Branch of the Potomac River. Funding for construction was provided by Congress and construction was completed in September.

In addition to upstream access, the trail also provides an easy walking path to the lake for fishing from the Maryland shoreline. Ample parking areas have been constructed at the trail head to accommodate vehicles. Ongoing trail maintenance will be provided by Garrett County Recreation Trails.



Deployee recounts typical day in New Orleans

By Joyce M. Conant
Public Affairs Office

A typical workday for Elizabeth Leigh was quite different in New Orleans than it was in Baltimore. Leigh, an interior designer, served as a quality assurance representative working the debris removal mission in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Leigh said she was pleased to participate in her first deployment.

“I finally got to a point in my life where my children are grown and I was available to help,” said Leigh.

The mother of four grown children — and wife of Billie Leigh, who also works in Baltimore District — spent her day chasing dump trucks, making sure the contracting crews got started, filling out debris load tickets, ensuring safety measures were in place and that the area was blocked off to cars and pedestrians.

“Traffic control was our biggest challenge,” she said.

Leigh arrived in New Orleans in early October to work on a variety of debris removal missions. The debris is separated in three categories: household waste, construction demolition and vegetation.

“We literally ran from one house to another as the crew picked up the debris — this mission being ‘white metal,’” said Leigh.

White metal is described as refrigerators, some air

conditioning units, washers and dryers — everything with the exception of microwaves

“We mostly picked up fridges,” said Leigh.

She said that although not all homes were flooded, power was lost for four to five weeks and many people could not get the stench out of their refrigerators.

“On a good day, we would have eight trucks each carrying 24 refrigerators to deliver to the dumpsite,” Leigh said.

It was Leigh’s responsibility to count the number of appliances or refrigerators placed on the truck and assign a debris load ticket for the contractor to take with him to the

“I finally got to a point in my life where...I was available to help.”

-Elizabeth Leigh
Engineering Division

dumpsite. The ticket displayed the time the truck left the pickup site, the number of appliances and cubic yards assigned to them along with the truck’s assigned identification number.

“When the truck arrived at the other end (dump), a Corps’ employee was there to document the load prior to dumping,” said Leigh.

The contractor was paid by the cubic yard. On Oct. 20, the dumpsite took in more than 2,000 refrigerators, Leigh said.

Items like refrigerators, air conditioners and freezers will be sorted and all hazardous materials will be removed by salvage teams. The appliances will then be disposed of through metal salvage companies.

“Right now we are moving roughly 200,000 cubic yards of debris per day,” said Jim Pogue, of the Task Force Hope public affairs office. He said it is enough to fill two football fields piled 50 feet high each day. He expected that this figure would increase as operations are expanded.

Leigh said that once the neighborhoods were cleaned up, people started taking ownership of their property, and she saw them out there “sweeping up.”

For now, Leigh is happy she’s had the opportunity to be a part of the mission.

“I like the work we are doing to help the people,” said Leigh. “Most people were glad we were there.”



Albert Perkins, Norfolk District, and Elizabeth Leigh, Baltimore District, ensure contractors have the necessary paperwork to transport refrigerators from an Algiers, La., neighborhood to an approved dumpsite.

Although they were rebuilding Afghanistan...

They stopped to help victims in Pakistan

By Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

Devastation, helplessness and sadness. These are the words used by four Corps employees to describe their feelings as they viewed the scene in northern Pakistan weeks after a 7.6 magnitude earthquake rocked an area about 60 miles northeast of the country's capital, Islamabad, Oct. 8.

"Landslides and rockfalls damaged or destroyed several mountain roads and highways, cutting off access to the region for several days," said Maryam Khan, a Pakistani native who works in Baltimore District. She was among a team of six specialists from the Afghanistan Engineer District, or AED, that deployed to the region Oct. 13 to conduct engineering work and assess structural damage to roadways, bridges, schools and clinics.

The group was part of the Disaster Assistance Center – Pakistan engineer cell, which included three other Corps employees: Gilbert Dent from Baltimore District, Kurt Monger from Alaska District, and Lawrence Ryan who was the director of Public Works at Fort Greely, Alaska during his deployment to Pakistan.

During their first week in Pakistan, the team conducted aerial reconnaissance of the affected areas near and around the epicenter of the earthquake to determine if the Corps could facilitate the humanitarian relief operations in Pakistan.

"We were all overwhelmed by the extent of the devastation," said Ryan.

Along with collapsed buildings, routes into many towns were completely demolished or cut off by landslides, damaged bridges and culverts, which significantly impeded the ability to transport aid.

"As we flew up into the remote valleys in what normally would be a very beautiful area of Kashmir, we realized that the recovery effort would last through the winter and really until the roads carved into the mountains could be rebuilt next spring," said Ryan.



(Photo courtesy of Maryam Khan, AED)

Maryam Khan, a Pakistani native who works in Baltimore District, returned to her homeland, to help this baby and other survivors of an earthquake that hit Pakistan Oct. 8.

The Corps coordinated with the Pakistani government through the Pakistani military and Rear Adm. Michael LeFever, who leads the Disaster Assistance Center in Islamabad. The team flew on Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters in conjunction with humanitarian supply flights.

"On these missions, we made air-drops and deliveries of supplies, food, medicine and other much needed aid to areas that were inaccessible due to

landslides and washouts," said Dent.

In one aerial mission, the team flew over an area where a massive mountain collapsed southeast of Muzaffarabad, causing a landslide that blocked a significant portion of a smaller valley and created a dam. Loose material, including rock, dirt and remnants of houses could be seen piled up to form massive dunes.

"I was having a difficult time comprehending how this could have happened," Khan said.

After more than a month of rescue and recovery, the Pakistani government's official death toll totaled 87,350. Some experts predicted the number of dead could increase to more than 100,000 as the winter cold settles into the region.

"Flying through the ruined towns, I felt nauseous from the smell of death," said Khan.

The recovery effort required a coordinated response between Pakistani and American governments, along with an array of other organizations and nations who rushed to help, including the U.S. Agency for International Development's

Disaster Assistance Response Team and United Nations' groups

Some organizations will stay on the ground to provide long-term care and lead initiatives to reconstruct roads, schools and clinics, according to Dent.

"I was very impressed with the resilience of the people," Ryan said.

"Many had lost everything, but they had a sense of dignity and a resolve to rebuild their lives."

How to care for poinsettias during the holiday season

A little extra care can keep your poinsettia beautiful for months. Location is the first consideration. Place it near a bright, indirect light source.

If the pot is wrapped in decorative foil, punch holes in the bottom so the plant's roots will not be standing in water. Place the plant in a saucer to collect extra water.

When watering, always use water that is room temperature so you don't chill the roots. Slowly add water to the pot until it drains out

the bottom. Discard the excess water.

To determine the water needs of the plant, check the pot every day until it is determined just how much water it is using. Water only when the top 1/4 inch of the soil is dry.

When the water needs of the plant are determined, it can be watered every two or three days. Too much water will make the leaves turn yellow and drop. Not



enough water will cause the plant to wilt and drop its leaves.

Fertilize your poinsettia once a month with water-soluble fertilizer following label directions.

A Token of Gratitude



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Col. Bob Davis, Baltimore District commander, accepts the Outstanding Corporate Contributions award from Maj. Jim Arrowood of the Salvation Army at a ceremony Nov. 15. The Salvation Army recognized Baltimore District employees for their participation in the Angel Tree program last holiday season. Employees donated more than 200 toys to needy children in the Baltimore area, according to Sue Jones, Angel Tree coordinator.

Attention Baltimore District employees!

If you missed the gift pick-up date for the District's Angel Tree program, you may drop off your contributions at the Salvation Army office, 814 Light St. You may also contact Connie Wise at (410) 783-2920, ext. 1295. For more information, call Sue Jones, RE, at (410) 962-4675.





Holiday safety:

Tips for staying safe while decorating the home or office

By Marci Purdy

Safety and Occupational Health Office

Home holiday season safety

Here are a few suggestions to help make your holiday season merry and safe:

- Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass “angel hair.” It can irritate your eyes and skin.
- Don’t burn your evergreens or wreaths in your fireplace or a wood stove. They are likely to flare out of control and send flames and smoke into the room.
- Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace because it often contains metallic materials that can be toxic if burned.
- Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains or with any potentially flammable items.

Lights in the office

Decorating the office for the Winter Holidays has become a tradition around the District, and in some instances, a

competition. When putting up those lights and dangling those snowflakes, please remember to keep these few tips in mind:

- If you are going to hang lights — take a moment to check the bulbs, sockets, light cords and extension cords for nicks, cuts, broken insulation or exposed wires. Discard damaged lights and cords.

- Be careful of where you string those light cords. They can easily become tripping hazards.

- Miniature lights are generally safer than larger bulbs, since they build up less heat. Just be sure to keep them away from areas where there may be combustible materials.

- Always look for lights, cords and decorations that carry the Underwriter’s Laboratories (UL) stamp of approval.



Washington Aqueduct employee earns award

By Patty Gamby
Washington Aqueduct

Ed Gottschalk, an operator at the Washington Aqueduct's McMillan Water Treatment Plant was named as the 2005 Operator of the Year by the American Waterworks Association Chesapeake Section. The award was presented to Gottschalk at the association's 57th annual conference held in Dover, Del., in August.

Gottschalk began work at the Washington Aqueduct in 1976 as a general laborer. Over the years, he dedicated himself to obtaining the training and experience needed to become a water treatment operator, which he accomplished in 1986.

Today, with 19 years experience as an operator, Gottschalk has established himself as a top shift responsible operator. He spends his own time helping other operators study for and pass certification exams and is considered a resource and a mentor to junior operators.



(Photo by Dennis Fisher, Washington Aqueduct)

Ed Gottschalk, an operator at the Washington Aqueduct's McMillan Water Treatment Plant, was named Operator of the Year for 2005.

On the record...



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Pamela Wood, a reporter for the *Annapolis Capital*, gives Baltimore District employees tips on how to have a good professional relationship with members of the news media. The Public Affairs Office held media training in the City Crescent Building Nov. 15. Twenty-four employees attended the event.

HOLIDAY PARTY

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

\$20.00

PLEASE SEE YOUR OFFICE POC

DECEMBER 16, 2005

11:30 A.M.

AT

ARBUTUS HALL

2006 Pay and Holiday Schedule

☐ Paydays

○ Holidays

— End of pay period

2005 Leave Year ends Jan. 7, 2006

2006 Leave Year ends Jan. 6, 2007 (Use or lose time must be used or forfeited)

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
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Baltimore Newsmakers



First day of Winter
December 21, 2005