



CONSTELLATION

A publication of the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Volume 31, Number 2

February 2005

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“I had reasoned this out in my mind, there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other.”

-Harriet
Tubman



(Photo by Dave Twigg, Fort Detrick)

The completion of Fort Detrick's Community Support Center is a step forward in the Fort's transformation as a state-of-the-art Army installation.

Corps construction projects add to soldiers' quality of life at Fort Detrick

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Although Baltimore District's headquarters is located in downtown Baltimore, the District's engineering capabilities and expertise extend far beyond the boundaries of Charm City. In Frederick County, about 50 miles west of the city, the District is working hard to improve the quality of life for Soldiers at Fort Detrick.

Last fall, the District completed a \$3.7 million renovation of Fort Detrick's Community Support Center, and the

project was a success for everyone involved.

“Our soldiers will be enjoying a state of the art facility, with every service-oriented office that a Soldier needs,” said Col. Robert J. Davis, Baltimore District commander, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the center Nov. 19.

The renovated 40,000-square-foot facility will house the offices of Equal Employment Opportunity, Housing and Transportation along with a one-stop, in-and-out processing center for Fort Detrick's Soldiers. Davis said the

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U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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Constellation is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and published monthly by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Md. 21203-1715. Telephone: (410) 962-2809; fax: (410) 962-3660. It is printed on recyclable paper; press run 1,600. All manuscripts submitted are subject to editing and rewriting. Material from this publication may be reproduced without permission. Views/opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

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Commander's Comment

Our Supervisory Development Program

by Col. Robert J. Davis
Commander and District Engineer

Expect the best! I heard this message loud and clear from the workforce through our employee survey last year. To achieve this, we've got to continue to create work environments where we inspire peak performance and don't tolerate non-performance.

Supervisors at all levels (especially first line supervisors) need to set standards in writing, mentor and coach, plan for the future and provide constructive feedback to reward successes and stimulate positive change. Our supervisors must have the training, tools and temperament to do this well. That's why we are beginning to roll out our Supervisory Development Program, or SDP.

The objective of the SDP is to assist supervisors in becoming more effective, so that they can create the environment we all expect. Our SDP team is developing a program that includes a combination of training and tools that include:

- A training module describing the SDP Training Program
- Establishment of a Resource Group for Supervisors
- Collaborative Virtual Workspace for Supervisors
- A Performance Standards/TAPES training module
- Performance Counseling

Guidance

- Mentoring/Individual Development Plan guidance
- A Human Resources Recruitment Toolbox

The first training module that describes the SDP Training Program and the Resource Group for Supervisors was presented in November and January. Additional sessions of Module 1 will be offered at the Washington Aqueduct (for greater Washington, D.C., metro region supervisors), and at the Harrisburg Area Office (for supervisors in central and northern Pennsylvania). The collaborative virtual workspace for supervisors will closely follow. This will be a web-based central repository for ready access to all tools developed and compiled under the SDP.

The **SDP Training Program** has three components—a core curriculum for new supervisors; an online catalogue of available leadership, supervisory and management training courses; and a series of focus topics to be presented each year. In the **core curriculum**, all supervisors will be required to complete the 40-hour Army supervisory course and a 40-hour leadership training course, such as Army Leadership and Development. We hosted a "pilot" version of the 40-hour supervisory course here in Baltimore District for Corps employees throughout our region. The **online catalogue** has been compiled from a wide

array of sources of government and non-government provided training vendors and includes many online courses at little or no cost. This catalogue is now posted to the District intranet as well as to the new collaborative virtual workspace for supervisors. The **focus topics** will allow for group discussion/learning of critical topics in leadership and supervision. The first focus topic (Module 1) is an introduction to SDP and the Resource Group for Supervisors. Module 2 (TAPES and Performance Counseling) is planned for this month, with additional sessions later in Fiscal 2005 focused on various aspects of performance counseling, recruiting, mentoring and tools to reward success and stimulate change.

The **Resource Group for Supervisors** is a new concept to encourage sharing of "best practices" among supervisors. It is an informal, confidential and advisory venue to encourage supervisors to reach out to those supervisors who are considered "experts." This Resource Group (about 10-15 people) was selected by the Senior Leadership of the District.

To be selected, a supervisor must be highly experienced and exhibit "corporate" philosophy, be a demonstrated leader, be approachable and respected by peers, and be willing to take on the most challenging human resources issues. The Resource Group for Supervisors

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Fort Detrick *(continued from cover)*

park benches, sidewalks, landscaping and parking that surrounds the structure also make it aesthetically pleasing on the outside.

Dan Durski, a project engineer at Fort Detrick, said the new support center is a definite improvement over the old one.

“The old building resembled an old, worn-down World War II warehouse,” said Durski. “The new building, however, is quite aesthetically pleasing and a source of pride for the Corps.”

Although the Corps is delighted with the new center, Carlos Muniz, the project manager, said the project would not have been completed on time and within costs without the help of Capital Technologies Services Inc., the contractor who performed the construction on the project.

“The contractor did a very good job, especially considering that it was the company’s, the quality control manager’s and the superintendent’s first federal construction project,” said Muniz.

The quality control manager for this project was Jim Rea and the superintendent for the project was Rob Minghini.

Just as Baltimore District has enjoyed great success with the renovation of the community support center, the District hopes to repeat that success with its current Fort Detrick projects.



(Photo by Randy G. Turner, Construction)

Baltimore District recently expanded and renovated this laboratory at Fort Detrick. The renovation work included waterproofing, installing laboratory equipment, finishing, cabinetry, windows and roofing.

These projects include the building of a new barracks and a dining facility, the renovating of an existing fire station and some modifications to the main visitor’s gate.

Mike Ogden, the resident engineer at Fort Detrick, said the modifications to the main visitor’s gate will be a definite improvement.

“The gate will comply with new force protection measures,” said Ogden.

The District is also planning several future construction projects at Fort Detrick including the expansion of a child development center and an auditorium, and the construction of a biomedical laboratory. Altogether, the District has a current and future

construction program at Fort Detrick that totals nearly \$174 million.

According to Durski, the Corps personnel who work at Fort Detrick are extremely excited about the difference they are making in the community.

“We have a great bunch of people here who really take pride in their work,” said Durski.

It is this positive attitude that makes Fort Detrick a wonderful place to work, he said.

“We have a great work environment, where everyone works together to deliver quality service to the members of the Fort Detrick community,” said Durski.

“That’s the most enjoyable aspect of working for the Corps.”

Commander’s Column *(continued from p. 2)*

is not intended to replace line management, Human Resources and formal processes, but is an avenue for supervisors to gain perspectives, mentoring and guidance to enhance consistency and facilitate transformation.

The SDP team, led by Greg Johnson, is hard at work developing the remaining components of the program

and plans to have it fully implemented by the end of FY05. I am very excited about these new tools!

With the right training, mentoring, and tools, we continue to enhance our work environment in order to inspire peak performance. This investment in supervisory development will benefit each of us!

-- Essayons!

Group documents history of Army environmental leadership

by *Candy Walters*
Headquarters Public Affairs

Many people believe that the Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers only began thinking about the environment in 1970 with the advent of Earth Day and the National Environmental Policy Act.

They would be wrong. In fact, the Army's involvement in natural resource conservation, stewardship and in managing the impacts of its missions on the natural environment goes back more than 200 years to the earliest years of the United States. The problem is that most people don't know it.

It's a problem that a small group of Army historians and others with an interest in the environment and history are trying to correct through the U.S. Army Environmental History Project.

For about 18 months, eight to 10 individuals from the Corps Office of History, the U.S. Army Construction and Engineering Research Laboratory, the Army Environmental Center, the Army Environmental Policy Institute and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine have been trying to document the "untold stories of Army environmental discovery and stewardship," as stated in a small eight-page brochure on the project.

"We believe that there's a great deal of useful information out there that should be preserved and used for lessons learned," said William Baldwin of the Corps Office of History and one of the project team members.

"The Army has done some good things for the environment as well as some that probably weren't quite as good. We don't know either story as well as we should. We want to document both because we can learn from



(Photo courtesy The Corps Environment)

Soldiers in the U.S. Canal Zone during the 1930s did not have to worry about contracting yellow fever thanks to earlier work by the Army Medical Corps in eradicating it.

both."

Four examples of the types of historic themes the group is addressing in the project include the work done by the Corps of Topographical Engineers in the 1840s; the living Army medical lab otherwise known as the U.S. Canal Zone; work the Corps of Engineers did in the late 1800's that resulted in the landmark Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 to protect waterways from dumpers and polluters; and transforming wasteland into a wildlife refuge at Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Colorado.

Right now the group is scouring any and all records it can find, as well as launching an oral history program, talking with some of the early pioneers in the Army's environmental program, such as Dee Walker and retired Col. Tom Magness.

"Our plan is to put the transcripts of these oral histories up on the Web site," Baldwin said. "Oral histories are important supplements to the written material that has already been preserved."

As the program grows and expands, Baldwin said the group would like to see enough money come its way so it could sponsor research efforts on selected topics, including projects by graduate students in Army institutions and students in history and environmental studies departments across

the nation.

A preliminary list of topics of interest is identified on the Web site.

"This is a long term effort," said Baldwin. "It's definitely a multi-agency effort within the Army, and we're really reaching out to different agencies."

For more information about the Army Environmental History Project, visit <https://eko.usace.army.mil/cop/envhistory/> or contact the managing editor, Susan I. Enscoe at susan.i.enscoe@erdc.usace.army.mil

Work proceeds on projects to find WW I contaminants, munitions

by Gary Schilling
Spring Valley Program Manager

Cleanup projects and studies abound in the Corps' Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site program. Among these are:

Soil removal

Arsenic-affected soil has been removed from nine properties under the non-time-critical-removal action. Including the 21 completed earlier, the total of remediated properties reached 30. Contractors are at work on the 10th property. At the present rate, about 10 more will be completed this fiscal year.

Phytoremediation

The 2004 phytoremediation study looked at whether certain tropical ferns could take up arsenic from Spring Valley soil. The study yielded encouraging results, and plans to expand the testing this year are proceeding.

A contractor will plant about 10,000 ferns in Spring Valley yards this spring. The contractor will maintain and monitor the plants throughout the summer. Data will again be collected in the fall and analyzed.

Groundwater investigation

The Corps and its partners, the

Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Health Department, agreed at a meeting Dec. 16 on a groundwater monitoring plan for the fiscal year. The plan comprises 30 wells, including three back-ground wells.

Project manager Ed Hughes's goal is to have data by Sept. 30. Plans are to have the wells in place by summer, but the schedule is dependent on obtaining the necessary permits, approvals and rights-of-entry.

The perchlorate study results released last month by the National Research Council do not change the Corps' plans for the groundwater investigation, which will also look for other potential contaminants.

Lot 18

Fiscal 2005 work at Lot 18 started Nov. 15. To increase production, project manager Craig Georg introduced a larger sifting table and more workers.

Workers recovered 12 suspect items amid the usual debris — 10 sealed glass bottles and two ordnance-related items. These are being evaluated.

Breakdown products of mustard, a chemical warfare agent, were identified during analysis of the liquid in one of the bottles. Both

chemicals — dithiane and thioxane — were found in low quantities and concentrations. Both have a low toxicity and would not cause adverse effects to someone exposed, experts said.

The site was closed for the holidays Dec. 15 and re-opened Jan. 3. During that time, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, or ECBC, which provides the monitors and filtration systems for Spring Valley investigations, replaced the Lot 18 filters with newly tested ones as a precaution. ECBC had become aware of an irregularity in the testing of carbon used in the filtration systems. Other testing that had been performed and the redundant site safety measures further protected workers and residents.

The crew is working five days a week, instead of the previous four-day schedule. Workers have recovered six suspect items — one ordnance piece and five sealed bottles — since Jan. 3. ECBC is analyzing these items.

Spring Valley is the site of the former World War I experiment station used by the Army to experiment with chemical weapons there.



(Photo by Joseph Leise, Engineering)

Gary Schilling (center), Baltimore District, addresses a Spring Valley partner meeting. From left, Ed Hughes, Baltimore District; Jim Sweeney, D.C. Health; Steve Hirsh, EPA; Allyn Allison, Huntsville Engineering Center; and Craig Georg, Baltimore District; were among the others who participated.

Engineer becomes new Resource Management Chief

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Greg Johnson started with the Baltimore District in 1999 as chief of the Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste branch of Engineering Division. He has also served as acting chief of Programs and Project Management Division in Baltimore and was Acting Environmental Branch Chief for Europe District.

Most recently, he was Assistant Chief of Engineering Division in Baltimore District.

Although Johnson enjoys the technical challenges inherent in engineering projects, he said his role in the Corps has always been more of a business professional than a technician. When an opening for District Resource Management chief surfaced, Johnson applied—and he was elated to be selected for the job.

As the new chief of the Resource Management Office, Johnson, 43, has many responsibilities. He monitors the District's financial practices and ensures the cost-effectiveness and fiscal integrity of the organization. He is also responsible for strategic business management initiatives for the District. Johnson also serves on the North Atlantic's Regional Management Board, helping Baltimore District and the other members of the Regional Business Center continue the Corps' journey toward thinking and acting regionally.

Johnson has a lot of work ahead of him, but he says he is up to the challenge.

"I am excited about being in

resource management, and I am interested in seeing what we do well and what we can do better," said Johnson.

For Johnson, the most enjoyable aspect of working for the Corps is the sense of satisfaction he gets from the work he does.

"I like doing something that makes a difference," said Johnson. "What we do is good, and that is very rewarding."

Just as Johnson values his Corps work experiences, District employees say that Johnson is an asset to the Corps because he brings a great deal of knowledge from both government and business.

"I have worked extensively with Greg in both the public and private sectors and in little time, I expect that our District and region will benefit from Greg's unique perspective and background," said Bob Pace, chief of Planning Division.

Stan Gembicki, chief of Engineering Division, agrees with Pace.

"Greg has a deep sense of devotion and loyalty to our nation, and a dedicated sense of stewardship of our environment," said Gembicki.

Prior to his employment with the Corps, Johnson served as vice president of the Southeast Region and later vice president for federal business for EA Engineering, Science and Technology in Hunt Valley, Md. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Villanova University and a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Delaware.



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Greg Johnson's first job with the Corps was in Engineering Division.

When Johnson is not at work, he enjoys reading, studying history, running, traveling and coaching youth sports.

Johnson and his wife, Ellen, live in Shrewsbury, Pa. They have one daughter, Kerry, 14, and one son, Eric, 9.

Johnson belongs to several organizations. He is the current director and former Baltimore post president of the Society of American Military Engineers, and he previously served as a member of his township's planning commission.

Johnson credits his parents for teaching him the importance of hard work and persistence.

Although his parents are past retirement age, his mother still teaches math at a high school in New Jersey, and his father is a private attorney.

"My parents' work commitment, sense of family, ethics and morals are great models," said Johnson. "I admire their sense of integrity and mission."

King event honors Negro League baseball player's wife

by Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

Geraldine Day, wife of the Negro League Hall of Fame baseball player Leon Day; Rep. Benjamin Cardin; and elected officials' representatives spoke to a tightly-packed room of more than 200 federal employees Jan. 11. Geraldine Day graced them with inspiring stories of the life and challenges of her late husband's career as a professional baseball player in the Negro Leagues.

"He had a dream," said Day during her speech at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, sponsored by the Baltimore District's Equal Employment Office, or EEO.

"He dreamt to be the best."

While his statistics, records and championships tell the story of a remarkable career, Leon Day believed being the best meant having a chance to compete with every athlete, regardless of the color of their skin, and having the opportunity to be equally recognized for his achievements.

"He would have played for free," said Geraldine Day.

Leon Day filled his career with one highlight after another, as one might expect from someone who said he loved the game of baseball as much as he loved life.

However, sprinkled among his awards and fantastic moments were experiences that served as constant reminders that he played baseball in a white man's world.

Geraldine Day described stories of having to stay at people's houses on the road because blacks weren't allowed in the hotels, and his salary of \$60 a month was barely enough to make ends meet at home. But he continued to play, because he had a dream.

"It was very obvious from Mrs. Day's presentation that Leon Day 'loved' baseball because he persisted despite the hardships he endured during one of the saddest times of American history," said Marie Johnson, chief of EEO.

"He perfected all the required skills needed to be a great baseball pitcher, but because he was a 'Negro,' he could not compete against the 'White' ball players," she said.

In the end, however, Day lived long enough to see his dream become a reality when Major League Baseball elected him to the Hall of Fame in March 1995. He passed away six days later.

During the King Day ceremony, Cardin spoke of the importance of equality for all Americans.

"Dr. King's way of conflict resolution could help us today," said Cardin, reflecting on the terrorist issues in the Middle East and their method of trying to instill change.

"King gave meaning to the First Amendment, and proved to the world that nonviolent protest is the way to make a difference," he said.

Letters from Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger and Rep. Wayne Gilchrest expressed similar sentiments on the quest for equality for which King stood.

Over his 10-year career, Day won five championships, set the records for most strike-outs in a single game (18) and most appearances in an All-Star game (7).

Geraldine Day said her husband felt his greatest achievement was tossing a no-hitter in 1946 at the age of 30 against the Philadelphia Stars—the first game he played in the United States after returning from two years of service with the U.S. Army during World War II.



(Photo by Tex Jobe, Information Management)

Col. Robert J. Davis gives Geraldine Day a personalized U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hard hat as a token of appreciation.

Army deploys new Resume Builder, ANSWER tool

Army Civilian Personnel Online recently deployed a new version of its Army civilian Resume Builder and ANSWER to modernize, simplify and shorten the application process.

The new tool will combine both the Resume Builder and ANSWER into one application providing a number of benefits to applicants.

Users with existing Resume Builder and ANSWER accounts should log in as "Registered Users" when first accessing the new Resume Builder/ANSWER application. Users will then be prompted to verify or update their registration information.

Enhancements and features of the new Resume Builder/ANSWER are:

- Army Civilian Resume Builder and ANSWER together under one login process;
- Capability to toggle between Resume Builder and ANSWER;
- User friendly menu driven; no more scrolling down one long page;
- Enhanced copy, cut and paste capability; users can now copy from ANSWER and paste into Resume Builder;
- Worksheet formats available for work experience, education and additional information; puts information in proper format;

- New job experience entries will automatically be entered at the beginning of the resume;
- One large box for job experience versus six individual boxes—allows for more flexibility; up to 12,000 characters may be entered for job experience description;
- Status tracking enhanced; only last 25 entries displayed, with option to view more;
- Enhanced "Help Menus" available for applicant's use.

To learn more on how to apply for Army jobs, visit Army Civilian Personnel Online at <http://acpol.army.mil/employment>.

Deployees thank co-workers for supporting Afghan orphans

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Corps deployees at the Afghanistan Engineer District sent a letter of appreciation to their co-workers at home for all of the donations they received to help the children of an Afghan orphanage.

"I just wanted to let you know how much your exceptionally generous donations mean to both your Corps co-workers here in Kabul, and more importantly, the orphans receiving them," said Afghanistan Engineer District employee Sara E. Young in the letter. "Your gifts of children's clothes, blankets, and toys truly change the lives of these

children."

Since Afghanistan Engineer District personnel adopted the orphanage last year, Corps employees at home have sent numerous items, including school supplies and monetary donations. The monetary dona-

tions have allowed the Corps to make many improvements to Afghan schools, according to Young.

"Thanks to the monetary donations, a clothesline has been installed, the school has a fresh coat of paint, and efforts are underway to repair a sorely neglected sewage tank which is causing severe health hazards on the premises of the orphanage," wrote Young.

"Over the past 10 months, we've paid for more than 130 new windows to be installed throughout the orphanage, and we purchased and delivered 50 warm blankets to keep the children warm through the cold Kabul winter."



(Photo courtesy Afghanistan Engineer District)

Corps employees Myrlande Lee and Sara Young (front center) pose with children in Kabul. Young says the children appreciate the donations sent from Baltimore District personnel.

Love your heart more than chocolates

February is American Heart Month, and now is the time to take stock of how you're treating the most important organ in your body. Check this information and see how you are applying it to your daily life.

- Your heart is a muscle. The stronger it is, the better it will work for you. It needs to be exercised, which means regular activity like walking,



running or lifting weights.

- Like any organ of your body, the heart won't serve you well if it's surrounded by fat. Working toward a satisfactory body weight will help your heart do its job.

- Fill your refrigerator with fruits, vegetables, lean meats and poultry. Keep whole grain products on hand as well as heart-friendly oils such as canola and olive oil.

- Your heart won't work at all if it gets plugged up. A lump of cholesterol will do it, which means you'll be wise to skip the fatty foods. And a blood clot will do it. Check with your doctors to see if an aspirin a day can keep your blood flowing

freely.

- Hearts object to being excited all the time. Anger, stress and the burden of carrying a grudge make them work harder. Do yourself a favor. Mend your fences and channel your anger into productive action. Plan your work, then work on your plan so you're not stressed.

- Don't use tobacco. Talk to your doctor about the best ways to quit smoking.

- High blood pressure can be a heart breaker. Limiting salt and drinking a glass of orange juice each day can help keep blood pressure at normal levels.

- If your doctor has prescribed medication for your hypertension, be sure to take it every day.

Home heart machines can be lifesavers

Proponents of automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, say the units should be viewed like smoke detectors and air bags. Most people won't need them, but they can be lifesavers if they do.

Of people who die from sudden cardiac arrest, half of men and 64 percent of women had no symptoms of heart disease. About 80 percent of cardiac arrests occur at home.

People who live in rural communities where emergency-response times are slow should think about a home AED. One idea may be for neighborhood groups to purchase a few devices and notify residents how to get them and use them.

The devices are simple to use even by children. Some AEDs are about the size of a hardcover book. Pull a handle to activate the machine and a calm voice gives step-by-step instructions. The cost is \$2,000, but some Web sites offer it for as

little as \$1,600.

Experts say anyone over 50 who can afford it should buy an AED.

Women's Heart Health Week is Feb. 1-7 The ABC's of women's heart attack symptoms

- **A**ngina, chest pain, back pain, or deep aching and throbbing in the left or right bicep or forearm.
- **B**reathlessness.
- **C**lammy perspiration.
- **D**izziness, light-headedness, fainting.
- **E**dema, swelling, particularly of the ankles or lower legs.
- **F**luttering or rapid heartbeats.
- **G**astric upset or nausea.

Another D.C. public school welcomes kids

Students, teachers, faculty, parents and District of Columbia public school system officials joined Baltimore District Commander Col. Robert J. Davis and Corps employees Mary Gauker, Manal Ezzat and Dennis Pritchett in celebrating the opening of Patterson El-

ementary School at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Jan. 4. Patterson is one of nine District of Columbia public schools that the Baltimore District has renovated or rebuilt.

The new Patterson Elementary School includes a state-of-the-art media center, gymnasium, auditorium, dining area, art and science labs, a music room, a computer lab, a health suite and other curriculum-based classrooms.

“Today, Patterson is a 21st-century elementary school ready to serve the young men and women of the District of Columbia,” said Davis during the ceremony.

Davis presented Patterson Elementary School Principal Beverly Burt with a commemorative collage of photos of the school, as has been the custom when the Corps completes a whole-school modernization project.

“We give it in honor of the occasion and as a token of our high regard for the men and women on the front lines of education at Patterson Elementary School,” Davis said.



(Photo by Susanne Bledsoe, Information Management)

Patterson Elementary School in Washington, D.C., one of nine schools that has undergone whole-school modernization, celebrated its completion at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in January.

Corps helps weather service stay up and running

Tucked high in the mountains of Virginia, a facility designed to keep weather information flowing in emergencies opened in January. Baltimore District built the facility in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service and the Department of Homeland Security.

Col. Robert J. Davis, District commander, along with Construction Division personnel George Lea, Paul Parsonault, Buddy Billington, Woody Snyder and Frank Benvenga participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 5 that officially

opened the new Telecommunications Gateway Redundant Facility at the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center in Bluemont, Va.

Called Mount Weather for short, the facility is a two-story,

14,000-square-foot structure. It houses computer and telecommunications equipment that operate as a backup to the weather service’s telecommunications gateway in Silver Spring, Md.

B LACK
HISTORY
MONTH

**You are invited
to attend the
Black History
Month Program**

Feb. 14, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
EEOC Conference Room, 4th Floor
City Crescent Building

Interim child center makes a difference

Children of the Fort Myer community are playing in a safer environment due to the hard work of Baltimore District personnel.

A new temporary child development center opened at the Fort in January.

Baltimore District built the interim facility to absorb about 90 children displaced from the Pentagon Child Development Center. The Pentagon's center no longer met security requirements after 9/11.

For many on the team, constructing this child development center provided a chance to see the immediate effect of their work in the faces of the children who attended the ceremony.

"We don't always get an opportunity to make a real-time impact," said Frank Benvenga, the project manager.

"Seeing the children made this one of the most rewarding projects that I've ever had a chance to work on," he said.

Col. Robert J. Davis, commander, represented Baltimore District at a ribbon cutting ceremony held



(Photo by Sgt. Chuck Wagner, Pentagon staff)

Col. Robert J. Davis, Baltimore District Commander, (left) joins an unidentified guest (right) in listening as Ed Gonzales, deputy director for family and recreation service programs at Fort Myer, Va., gives a tour of the new interim child development center.

Jan. 12 to mark the opening.

The interim center consists of eight single-story, prefabricated modular units that total

about 8,000 square feet. Baltimore District is also managing the construction of a permanent facility planned to open in fall 2007.



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Woody Francis, president of the District's local chapter of the National Federation of Federal Employees, makes a donation to the tsunami relief fund. All of the monetary donations were sent to the American Red Cross to help the tsunami victims.

News you can use

CFC

Baltimore District employees contributed about **\$85,000** to the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign. **Steve Garbarino**, Program and Project Management, chaired the District's fund-raising effort.

Speakers Bureau Jodi Beauchamp,

Planning, spoke to the Maryland Marine Club in Brooklyn, Md., Jan. 18 about her experiences in Afghanistan.

Groundhog Day

The midway points between solstices and equinoxes are the "cross-quarter" dates. Feb. 2 is one, with a history that starts with astronomy and ends with the groundhog. This contrary theory of weather predicting became associated with hibernating animals looking for their shadows. In America, it's Groundhog Day. If the weather is clear on this day, and the groundhog sees his shadow, it is said that winter will persist, and spring will be late.

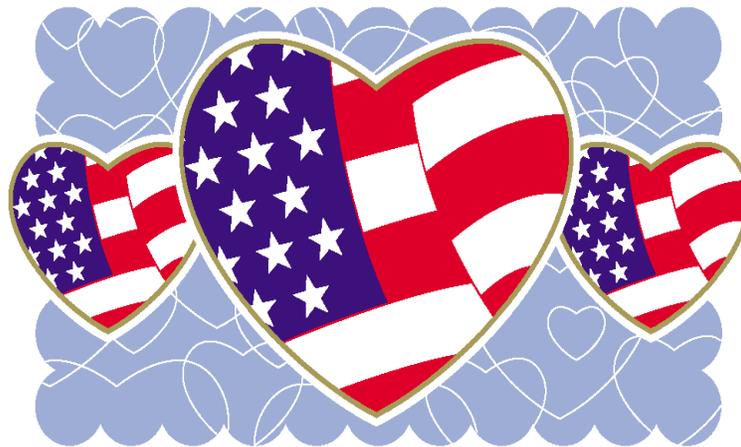


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Official Business

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Let's keep our troops in our hearts



until they've all come home.