



CONSTELLATION

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“We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone”

- Sandra Day O’Connor



(Photo courtesy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Baltimore District employees deploy to assist in emergencies, such as when flooding from Hurricane Ivan caused this sinkhole in Scranton, Pa.

Emergency Management offers relief Volunteers deploy during times of crisis

By CHANEL S. WEAVER
Public Affairs Office

Because of the significant strides that have been made in science, technology and education over the years, there are many aspects of life that have become predictable. Meteorologists can forecast when a snowstorm will strike, and an obstetrician can closely estimate when a baby will be born. Even automobiles are equipped with computers that can guess when the vehicle will need to be refueled.

Although there are many elements of life that are easy to predict, sometimes unexpected events occur. A terrorist could attack a particular region; a heavy storm may cause a

sinkhole to form in a road; or a wildfire may suddenly ignite in the California wilderness. When such unexpected disasters occur, the Baltimore District’s Emergency Management Branch is ready to respond.

Staffed by dedicated professionals who enjoy coming to the aid of others, Emergency Management, or EM, is responsible for planning and managing emergency operations for the Baltimore District in coordination with federal, state and local agencies as well as other District resources.

The branch coordinates the District’s response to several types of emergencies that include natural disasters, man-made disasters,

(continued on page 3)



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

[http://](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil)

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Commander's Comment

Baltimore District's Support to Fort Meade, Md.

By COL. ROBERT J. DAVIS
Commander and District Engineer

Over the next few months, I will highlight some of the fantastic installations and stakeholders that we are fortunate enough to support. Our Military Programs support is generally installation focused. Our Civil Works support generally centers on states, counties, towns and other quasi-governmental organizations, which provide cost share payment for projects. Our Interagency and International Services helps other Executive Branch or Department of Defense agencies accomplish their missions.

Fort Meade, Md., is located just down the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from our District headquarters in Baltimore. The post is named after Gen. George Gordon Meade, whose defensive strategy at the Battle of Gettysburg proved to be a major factor in turning the tide of the Civil War in favor of the North.

When it comes to supporting installations such as Fort Meade, our philosophy is to be an integrated extension of the garrison staff, serving as one door to the full capabilities of the Corps of Engineers. The Fort Meade garrison, led by Col. Ken McCree, is responsible for manning and operating all the post support functions to enable the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guard personnel assigned there to accomplish their missions. These support functions include public works, environmental, public safety, transportation, logistics, information technology, and fire and emergency services.

There are a wide array of tenants at Fort Meade, the largest being the National Security Agency, which occupies a significant space on the 5,067-acre installation. Other important tenants are the Defense Information School, a large post exchange and commissary complex,

a high school and a middle school, an ambulatory care center, an Environmental Protection Agency laboratory, the Army Field Band, numerous military intelligence organizations and a Military Entrance Processing Station, which processes recruits into military service.

Even the Architect of the Capitol has facilities at Fort Meade. As you drive throughout Fort Meade, one cannot avoid noticing the demolition of old family housing and the construction of new housing as part of the Army's Residential Communities Initiative program, which provides Soldiers with quality family housing through privatization.

The garrison has a tough job to keep everything humming ... paying the energy bills, repairing infrastructure, housing and feeding members of the armed forces, caring for children in child care facilities, responding to emergencies, offering legal services, providing chaplain services and managing Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment programs.

Although the Corps of Engineers is the designated design-construction agent for Army military construction at Fort Meade, I am most proud that we are often asked by the garrison to assist in many additional activities there. An example of this support is the recent work that was accomplished to assist the garrison in the construction of a \$10 million dining facility that will feed 800 Soldiers.

When it comes to supporting Fort Meade, our Corps of Engineers Strategic Vision guides the way, "...relevant, ready, responsive, reliable... focused on the mission and those we serve."

Thanks to Fort Meade for allowing us to be part of the team!

—**Essays**

Emergency Management

(continued from cover)

acts of terrorism and support for military operations.

“When such emergencies occur, District volunteers may perform such tasks as providing information technology support, overseeing debris operations, inspecting residential roofs or simply driving a vehicle — whatever it takes to complete the mission,” said Maria de la Torre, chief of EM.

Some volunteers have already deployed during the 2005 hurricane season.

In July, when the southeastern United States was threatened with the possible landfall of Hurricanes Dennis and Emily, Baltimore District employees were quick to offer assistance.

Three District employees — Joe Phelan, Joanie Collins and Ken Baumgardt — deployed to Alabama and Texas to provide technical assistance via the Rapid Response Vehicle, or RRV — a truck that allows Corps personnel to set up communications from almost any location. In addition, Rodgers Hagert, EM specialist and action officer for the District’s Debris Planning and Response team, deployed to Florida to assist Jacksonville District with the potential debris mission.

Although the damage from both hurricanes proved to be minimal, Baumgardt said the practice and experience he received was invaluable.

“The deployment of the RRV to first Hurricane Dennis, and then Hurricane Emily, was educational,” said Baumgardt. “We learned to set up the equipment in an organized and efficient manner, and worked well as a team to achieve all of the mission goals.”

Like Baumgardt, Collins thought her deployment experience was very enjoyable, and she would like to deploy again if needed.

“Hurricanes Dennis and Emily were my first deployments with the RRV, and I found the experience exciting and very rewarding,” said Collins, an information technology specialist.

“Providing emergency response with access to the Internet, email, printing and faxes was my reward, and to know that we can provide these services via satellite from virtually anywhere is amazing.”

Natural disasters, like hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding are not the only emergency situations that involve Baltimore District.

When New York and Washington, D.C., were attacked by terrorists on 9/11, the District sent representatives to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the search for victims and later, to monitor debris activity being

conducted by the City of New York and its contractors.

Ron Martin, chief of Logistics Management, deployed to New York with staff members JoAnn Boone and Mark Harris. He said the events of that day were unforgettable.

“Even though I witnessed the devastation firsthand, my mind still cannot accept it,” said Martin, “yet I was proud to be able to offer assistance to the emergency responders.”

A Corps’ trademark is its commitment to supporting the nation’s military, and emergency management plays a major role in this mission.

One way in which Baltimore District employees support military operations is by volunteering for deployments to support reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. EM has worked hard over the past few years to send people of many trades — engineers, construction representatives, budget analysts, geologists, program and project managers, administrative support personnel and logistics personnel — to support the military effort.

While employees who deploy are critical to EM operations, the EM mission could not be completed without the help of those who remain in the District offices, de la Torre said.

“Back in the office, it is the folks who process funds, travel orders, timesheets and other paper work, who help to keep our operation running smoothly,” said de la Torre.

“It is these ‘behind the scenes’ folks who make it possible for District employees to get out the door so they can offer assistance in a time of crisis.”



(Photo courtesy Ken Baumgardt, Planning Division)

Joanie Collins (left), Joe Phelan, Maj. Gen. Don Riley (from Corps headquarters) and Ken Baumgardt deployed to Alabama and Texas to provide technical assistance in anticipation of Hurricanes Dennis and Emily making landfall. The Rapid Response Vehicle (rear) allows the team to set up communications from almost any location.

Texan takes reins at Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque

Story and photo by
MARY BETH THOMPSON
Public Affairs Office

Marilyn Jones knew from an early age what career she wanted.

“Back when I was probably 6 or 7 years old, I saw the movie about Smokey Bear and how the four strangers took care of him and got him over his burns from the forest fire,” Jones said. “I thought right then, ‘Now that’s what I want to be, a Smokey Bear,’ and that meant, to me, a forest ranger.”

Today, although Jones is not a ranger, she’s in the same park. Literally. She is the operations project manager at the Corps’ Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes in north central Pennsylvania, the first woman to hold such a position in Baltimore District history.

Jones worked 24 years in Southwestern Division before moving north in February. She had also broken gender ground in Fort Worth District as the first female in a field

management position.

At Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque, Jones is responsible for the budget and the day-to-day operations of the three lakes’ facilities. She’s also the Corps’ representative and point of contact for emergency operations in that area of Pennsylvania. She sees her leadership role as an opportunity to help others.

“I’d be happy to be a mentor to anybody that has aspirations of moving up in the ranks of the Corps,” she said with a characteristic smile. Her primary on-the-job enjoyment comes from interacting with her employees.

“They know what teamwork means, and they practice it,” she said of her staff.

Second on Jones’ list of what she likes about her job is the opportunity to work with and protect natural resources.

“I’ve not worked at a project that had so many wildlife resources and just general flora-type resources,” she said.

From her desk, Jones can look out through side-by-side, rectangular windows that cover one office wall. She sees a wooded scene complete with a

creek. A bird feeder that hangs outside the windows often catches her eye.

“I’ve had my window open today, and I’ve heard turkey as they moved along the creek bank, and I’ve heard an owl, and then all kinds of birds have been on the bird feeder,” she said. “I feel like I’m sitting inside nature itself here.”

The Smokey Bear inspiration is evident. It is clear that all forms of wildlife appeal to Jones.

“I have critters galore,” she said, her Texas drawl evident. She keeps several cats, two dogs and a pigmy goat. Her pets provide her with a lot of fun and pleasure.

Jones also spends time outdoors fishing, hunting, target shooting and camping. She is active in the National Parks and Recreation Association and the National Society of Park Resources. She enjoys sightseeing, too, and plans to visit the natural and historic sites in Pennsylvania and throughout the East Coast.

Moving to Pennsylvania has been a positive experience for the native Texan. For one thing, she likes the cool weather, finding it easy to simply add clothing to keep warm.

She also observed that the people are friendly and helpful.

“You know, for a long time, the southern states have always thought that they had the friendliest and most down-to-earth-type folks, but I can attest to the fact that Tioga County has that same kind of attitude,” Jones said.

And the locals are adjusting to hearing a Texas twang when they speak to the manager of Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes.

“They’re getting used to the ‘y’alls’ and the ‘all y’alls,’” she said.

“I bring an interesting mix to the conversation.”



Marilyn Jones stands at the map table in her office at Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes.

Multi-agency approach finds water resources solutions

By CHRISTOPHER AUGSBURGER
Public Affairs Office

The need for sound water resources solutions within Baltimore District's drainage basins grows with each lost acre of wetland and every home and business damaged by flooding. Baltimore District has made finding answers to nationwide water resources problems one of three major goals towards which it will focus its efforts and resources.

The Corps' goal for the nation's water resources is clear: provide comprehensive, innovative, sustainable and integrated solutions to national and international water resources and related challenges. Whether the resource is ecosystem restoration, local flood protection, maintenance dredging or any other effort in the vast suite of Baltimore District's water resources projects, the District's Civil Works program has positioned itself on the cutting edge of modern water resources management.

"We are increasingly attacking these problems on a watershed level, versus a project level," said Robert Pace, chief of Planning Division. The program's strategy is to address water resources problems by incorporating the expertise and abilities of other agencies, along with garnering support from local and state governments.

"We need to come up with solutions that aren't limited to what only this agency can do or that agency can do," he said.

Baltimore District is already demonstrating the benefits of partnering through its role in the native oyster restoration program in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay. The Corps embarked on the program by establishing



(Photo by Claire O'Neill, Programs and Project Management Division)

Baltimore District is taking a complete and systematic approach to water resources problems, such as the Anacostia River Watershed Comprehensive Plan, which looks at ways to prioritize restoration activities in the Anacostia watershed.



(Photo by Susanne Bledsoe, Information Management)

Volunteers from the National Aquarium in Baltimore pass a tray of marsh grasses as part of a planting event at Poplar Island. The island was built using a multi-agency, watershed approach to water resources management.

partnerships with other federal and state entities, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the University of Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Oyster Recovery Partnership.

"These partnerships provide excellent opportunities to combine fiscal resources and professional skills more effectively," said Claire O'Neill, the Corps' program manager and Baltimore District's project manager for the native oyster restoration program.

Relationships with local sponsors have already played an integral role in other types of water resources management projects across the District, according to Phil Hager, who has managed a series of flood damage reduction projects in Pennsylvania.

"Working with partners enlarges the potential for innovative and creative solutions," said Hager.

With successful projects in the past providing proof that the multi-agency approach works, making that method a regular practice will take time. However, Pace said the District has already begun moving forward in its efforts to take a more complete and systematic approach to water resources problem in such areas as the Anacostia River Watershed Comprehensive Plan, Chesapeake Bay Shoreline Erosion study in Maryland and the Middle Potomac Watershed reconnaissance study. In Baltimore District, attacking water resources problems through multi-agency approaches will become the standard, rather than the exception.

District commemorates Hispanic Americans

By JOYCE M. CONANT
Public Affairs Office

Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18.

During this celebration, America commemorates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots back to Spain, Mexico and Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the

United States of any race. One out of every two people added to the population between July 2003 and July 2004 were Hispanic, according to the Bureau.

This year's Hispanic Heritage Month theme is "Hispanic Americans: Strong and Colorful Threads in the American Fabric."

"Hispanic Heritage Month is not only an important event, it is a time to recognize the diversity within our District and a time when we stop to recognize the valuable contributions our Hispanic employees make on an everyday basis," said Col. Robert Davis, Baltimore District commander.

Antonio Santiago-Rios is one such employee. He spends his day as the District's chief of Security, conducting personnel checks and issuing

identification badges for employees.

"As chief of the Security and Law Enforcement office, I am responsible not only for the Personnel Security Program, which involves background investigations for suitability and security clearances, but a wide variety of security related issues," he said.

Santiago-Rios' other duties include conducting security awareness training, reporting derogatory information, handling and protecting classified information, and investigating security violations, to name a few.

Baltimore District will honor the contributions made by Hispanic Americans from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

"Our employees will have an opportunity to learn more about the Hispanic thread that runs through our nation's flag," said Kim Brewton, an Equal Employment Opportunity specialist.

"Hispanic-Americans have served our country with great dignity and honor," said Brewton. Many of the Hispanic-Americans serving in our Armed Forces protecting our freedom are not U.S. citizens, and some have been naturalized while serving in Iraq.

"Every American should stop to take the time to recognize the contributions made by all cultures, not just on dedicated observances, but all year long," said Brewton.



(Photo by Joyce M. Conant, Public Affairs)

Antonio Santiago-Rios (left), chief of the Security and Law Enforcement Office, takes a photograph of Robert Pace, chief of Planning, to renew his government identification badge. Badges are renewed every three years.

For more information on Hispanic Heritage Month visit http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/005338.html.

Constitution protects and defends basic rights

By KEN BAUMGARDT
Planning Division

It's arguably the most important document written in the past two thousand years. It changed the nature of politics worldwide, but also reshaped mankind's definition of itself. And it's having a birthday. It's the U. S. Constitution.

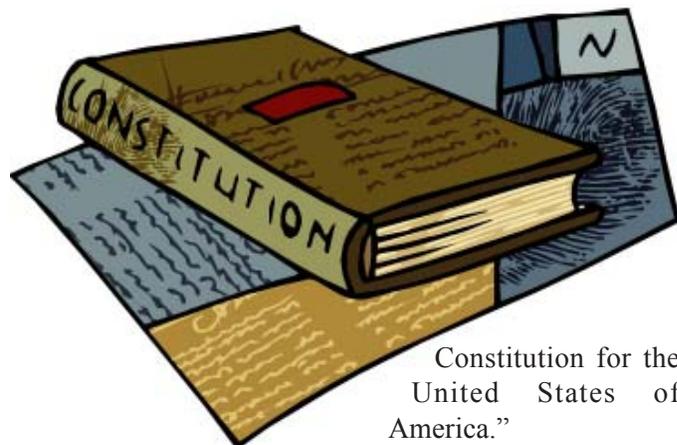
The concepts embodied in the Constitution arose from the Age of Enlightenment, an era of thinking that began with the Italian scientist Galileo and ended with the French Revolution. Enlightenment thinkers such as Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson embraced the concepts that all men were equal in God's sight and had certain God-given rights.

This philosophical basis was a far cry from the legal and moral standards used in the Roman and medieval times, when rights were only given to males, while the rest of the population were subservient to these men. Even throughout the first 200 years of the American colonies' existence, a Germanic governmental system was used, and the states were only loosely tied together as independent political institutions.

Soon after the American Revolution began, members of the original 13 colonies started to form a single, unified government. The Articles of Confederation, developed by the Continental Congress, continued to protect the states' rights and provided some basic rules of interaction between them, mostly for national defense and interstate commerce.

In September 1786, commissioners from five states met in Annapolis, Md., to discuss changes to the Articles. Attempts to amend the Articles failed, and the commissioners decided to hold a convention to rewrite the Constitution. The convention convened in May 1787 in Philadelphia, and ended when the new U.S. Constitution was completed Sept. 17. Following extensive debates by proponents of the old Confederate system, which strictly limited any federal control over the individual states rights, the Constitution was ratified by the 13 individual states and adopted March 4, 1789. The preamble to the Constitution summarizes both the Enlightenment philosophy and the need for a unified government:

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this



Constitution for the
 United States of
 America.”

The Constitution itself only established a national government, divided into the three branches of executive (the president), legislative (Congress) and judicial (the judges). Almost immediately after ratification, 10 amendments were added to limit the powers of the federal government on states' and individual rights. The 10 amendments, called the “Bill of Rights,” address free speech, the right to bear arms, freedom of religion and the right to a fair trial.

Additional amendments were added subsequently to expand and more clearly define the rights set forth in the Constitution. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery in 1865, and the 19th Amendment was added in 1920 to permit all persons, regardless of race or sex, to vote in national elections.

Amendments continue to be proposed today, including ones to restrict abortions, to outlaw the burning of the U.S. flag and to define the nature of marriage. Amendments are intentionally subjected to many years of debate before action is taken to add them to the Constitution.

Sept. 17 is the 218th anniversary of the Constitution, which still ensures and protects the rights of each and every American citizen and has been used as the model for democratic governments around the world.

To learn more about the U.S. Constitution, visit the new National Constitution Center in downtown Philadelphia or see the actual document housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

On the 'Net:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org>

<http://www.archives.gov>.

Book guides way to discovering talents

By TIM PECK AND JEAN SWALLEY
Engineering Division/LDP members

A recent survey of 198,000 employees in 36 companies indicated that most businesses base their employee management on two assumptions: 1) everyone can learn to be competent in almost anything; and 2) a person's greatest potential for growth is in his or her greatest area of weakness.

However, in the book *Now, Discover Your Strengths*, authors Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton advocate that, not only are these assumptions flawed, but for organizations to develop their full potential, they must approach employee development with the understanding that: 1) every individual has unique and enduring talents; and 2) a person's greatest potential for growth is in his or her greatest area of strength.

This shift of focus from personal failings to individual strengths reflects a drastic change in how people are managed. According to the authors, this new way of thinking guides the managers of the world's best organizations.

Now, Discover Your Strengths is one of the learning tools used in the District's Leadership Development Program, or LDP, this year. The LDP participants discovered their personal strengths or unique talents through a profile test on a Web site created by the book's authors. The LDP participants read this book to gain an understanding of the 34 main "themes" most prevalent in human talents, to understand their own strengths and talents and to learn how to most effectively manage a person with a particular set of "themes" or strengths. In other words, one discovers what makes a person "tick."

For a personal aspect to be considered a strength, one must demonstrate this aspect consistently and predominantly in his or her work or other activity. A certain combination of strengths of a successful person best explains the excellent

performance of that person. Thus, individuals maximize their strengths when they excel in their work with great enthusiasm.

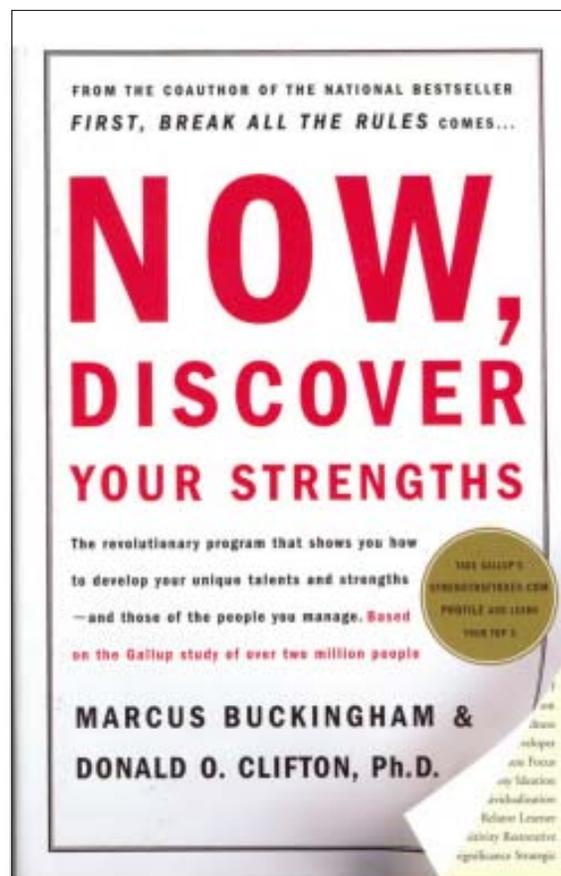
What are some of these "strengths?" The more common ones among the LDP team include *achiever* — a constant need for achievement every day; *connectedness* — a deep understanding that people and events are somehow connected or interdependent; *learner* — a love of learning something new; *responsibility* — an urging to take ownership for anything you commit to, being emotionally bound until completion; and *relator* — an enjoyment of making new friends and being with close friends with an interest in deepening the relationship.

The authors explain how to build a successful, strengths-based organization starting with selecting the right person for the right role, how to more effectively measure performance with the unique talents of a person in mind and how to develop the career potential and promotion of an employee. The book explains methods for developing and managing human resources within an organization.

Although *Now, Discover Your Strengths* has been a useful tool for organizational development, there are still some precautions that should be taken when focusing on strengths. The identified strengths should not be used to label people, or prejudice them for a specific role. People in the

same job role, but with differing strengths can both succeed in their work. The difference is how they apply their particular strengths to their job requirements and by doing it in an enthusiastic and energetic way.

The LDP team found this book to be helpful in understanding fellow employees and how they could perform better in their work. Published in 2001, *Now, Discover Your Strengths* is catching on across the country as a way to understand your work role and improve career growth.



Use caution when performing home repairs

By ANGELA MOORE
Public Affairs Office

For those who are handy, safety should be a primary concern when doing repairs and making improvements in the home. More accidents occur in the home than in the workplace. Doctors offer plenty of advice about how those who are performing home repairs can practice safety first on the American College of Emergency Physicians' website.

"Take no chances with injury," said Dr. Russell Harris. "Always wear appropriate safety equipment, and observe safety advice and proper use of equipment."

Safety-minded individuals should establish a routine that makes safety automatic, and never use a tool they are unfamiliar with or perform a task they are unqualified to do, according to Harris.

Personal Safety

When using hand tools, doing home improvement, painting or plumbing, one can avoid careless injury by using the right tools for the job and making sure he or she has proper training for the equipment.

- Always maintain and use personal safety equipment for eyes, lungs, ears, hands and feet when your work involves hazards related to them.

- Install or repair items only if you're qualified, and never do electrical work unless you're experienced. Also, be knowledgeable of first aid, and keep a well-stocked first aid kit on hand.

- Wear appropriate dust masks or a respirator when particles are airborne or chemical fumes are present.

- Wear earplugs or full ear protectors if exposed to loud noise from power saws, drills, or other workshop machines.

- Use appropriate gloves to protect your hands.

- Wear hard-toe or safety steel-toe shoes to protect your feet when working with heavy parts or machinery.

Power Tools

- Use a tool only for its intended purpose, applying the force it was built to withstand.

- When working with machinery, tie back long hair, wear close-fitting clothing and remove jewelry. Never drink alcohol when operating equipment or using power tools.

- Maintain tools in proper working condition, and perform proper, routine maintenance. Regularly inspect tools, cords and accessories, and immediately repair or replace broken equipment and tools.

- Only use attachments authorized by the manufacturer.

- Never alter a tool in a manner that reduces its safety.

- Keep tools, equipment and supplies neatly stored in locked cabinets or drawers between uses.

- Avoid distractions when using power equipment.

- When using a cutting tool, always aim the edge away from your body.

Ladders

When using a ladder, remember to



think "safety" first.

- Inspect it to make sure it's in good working condition, and always use the right type of ladder. Place it on firm, even ground. Face a ladder when climbing up or down, and hold the side rails with both hands. Never stand on the top rung.

- Keep aluminum ladders away from power lines, and never use them to do electrical work, because they conduct electricity.

"Make work areas as safe as possible," said Harris.

"Never leave garden tools or extension cords lying around, and return tools after each use. Establish and maintain proper lighting levels, and replace electric cords that are frayed and the insulation that is breaking."

For more information on other health and safety topics, visit The American College of Emergency Physician's Web site at <http://www.acep.org>.

New division commander visits Baltimore

Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli, North Atlantic Division commander, visited Baltimore for an orientation tour of the District and to learn more

about the programs and project administered here Aug. 23 and 24.

In addition to attending program and project briefs in the City Crescent building, Grisoli visited the

Spring Valley formerly used defense site project and learned more about the Washington Aqueduct's unique mission during a walking tour of the facility.

Grisoli also met with newly appointed Port of Baltimore Executive Director Brooks Royster.

"It is clear Baltimore has some very unique programs and projects because of its proximity to the nation's capital and the Chesapeake Bay, said Grisoli.

"I look forward to working with the Baltimore staff during my time as the division commander."

Grisoli, a native of Long Island, N.Y., is commanding the North Atlantic Division at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., following a tour as the Northwest Division Commander in Portland, Oregon.

"It's good to be home," he said.



(Photo by Susanne Bledsoe, Information Management)

Woody Peterson, Chief of the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Section, talks to Brig. Gen. Grisoli during his tour of the Washington Aqueduct on August 24.

Training class helps some understand Corps' financial system

By CHANEL S. WEAVER
Public Affairs Office

The Resource Management Office is hoping to answer many of the questions surrounding the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System, or CEFMS.

Once a month, the office hosts a training class to allow employees to tackle the intricacies of the financial system..

According to Cyndi Geppi, the CEFMS training coordinator for Baltimore District, the CEFMS class covers diverse topics. Specialized training is also available.

Denise Bauer, a financial analyst who serves as a CEFMS instructor, said she enjoys sharing her knowledge of

CEFMS with Corps employees.

"CEFMS training is an important resource for the Corps," said Bauer.

Linda Evans, a contract specialist, attended the August class, and she especially valued the one-on-one training.

"I enjoyed the training for special issues," said Evans.

Evelyn Evans, a new interior designer, agreed with Linda Evans.

"The training demystified the process of basic financial management with the Corps," said Evans.

Like Evans, Derica Butler, an electrical engineer, said she encourages all Corps employees to take CEFMS training.

"CEFMS training makes it easier to do your job," said Butler.



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Denise Bauer (seated left) teaches the basics of navigating through CEFMS during the training Aug. 15-17.

For more information on registering for a CEFMS class or if you are interested in teaching a CEFMS class, contact Cyndi Geppi, RM, at ext. 2272.

Congratulations to the newly-elected members of the Employees Activities Association:

Shavette Bradley, RE
President

Karen Reed, RE
Vice President

Jennifer Watson, PPMD
Secretary

Angie Blizzard, RE
Custodian

Denise Davis, IM
Member

Tonya Manuel, EN
Member



(Photo by Joyce M. Conant, Public Affairs Office)

A plaque to dedicate the south cell wildlife habitat area of Hart-Miller Island to the citizens of Maryland was unveiled at a ceremony held on the island Aug. 15. Taking part in the dedication were (from l to r), Tom Kroen, chairman of the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee; Jim Harkins, director, Maryland Environmental Service; Ron Franks, secretary, Department of Natural Resources; Steve Pattison, assistant secretary, Department of the Environment; Jim Ports, deputy secretary, Department of Transportation; Lt. Col. Joseph T. Hand, deputy district engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District; Brooks Royster, executive director, Maryland Port Administration; Helen Bentley, former congresswoman; and Delegate Joseph "Sonny" Minnick, District 6.

Speaker's Bureau continues to blossom

Several District employees shared the Corps story with various organizations throughout the month of August:

Philip Hager, Planning, served as lecturer to 30 junior high school students at the Carey Run Outdoor School, which is part of the Maryland Ornithological Society in Garrett County, Md., Aug. 8. He gave a short history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the causes, elements and results of high water events; and watershed basics.

Joyce Conant, **Christopher Augsburger** and **Angela Moore**, Public Affairs, spoke to 50 students ages 12-17 about types of job opportunities within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at The Preston Mitchum Jr. Foundation career fair held at Towson University, Aug. 21.

Mark Mendelsohn, Planning, spoke to about 100 boat owners at the Trojan Boat Club in Chestertown, Md., about the Poplar Island restoration project located in the Chesapeake Bay, Aug. 27.



(Photo by Joyce M. Conant, Public Affairs)

Angela Moore (left), Christopher Augsburger (right) and Joyce Conant, Public Affairs Office, provided information and Corps memorabilia during a career awareness event held at Towson University on August 21.



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