



North Atlantic Division Commander visits Baltimore District

By **Katisha Draughn**
Public Affairs Office

Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, the commander of the North Atlantic Division, spent three days with Baltimore District employees last month.

Semonite visited Baltimore District Nov. 6-8 to gain additional information on District programs and projects and to meet District employees.

The commander's visit began with a District overview and a walk-through of the City Crescent Building to meet employees and recognize their outstanding work.

"It was nice to meet him and to be able to place a live person with the name," said Maria de la Torre, chief of the Emergency Management Branch. "He seems straightforward and is willing to look into things he can influence directly."

Craig Thomas, an environmental protection specialist in the Planning Division, was grateful for the opportunity to interact with Semonite during his visit.

"I appreciated him coming," Thomas said. "I have been here almost four years and this is the first time a commander has come around to speak to everyone."

During his visit, Semonite traveled to Fort Belvoir to receive an onsite overview of the Engineering Proving Ground, had lunch with military officers at Fort McNair and met with the Military District of Washington commander and staff.

On his last day with the District, Semonite toured the



(Photo by Carolyn Jackson, Public Affairs)

Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, commander of the North Atlantic Division, steers the debris boat "Reynolds" as Tom Donahue, small craft operator from the Navigation Branch, guides him. Semonite spent three days last month meeting District employees and learning about different programs and projects.

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U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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

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Commander's Comment

Have Fun!

By Col. Peter W. Mueller
Commander and District Engineer

When you were younger, did you ever have a teacher, coach, or parent that knew how to make learning, football practice, or weekend chores fun? Do you find yourself thinking about how much fun you had as a member of a sports team especially after a tough fought victory? Ever have a friend admire a product of one of your hobbies, question how you could have accomplished such a huge task and you never considered it work because you enjoyed the process so much?

When we have fun in what we do, we tend to work a little bit harder, take a little more pride in our effort and establish an environment that accentuates the positive. This positive attitude can be contagious. We expect to have fun at home or doing hobbies. Why shouldn't we feel the same way about our profession, what we do, who we work with, and the environment we work in? If we have fun at work, our productivity improves. *Having fun is a combat multiplier!*

A few years ago, the Pikes Place Fish Market in Seattle, Wash., received a lot of attention

because of the unique environment they produced at work. They had fun each day and so did their visitors. They even produced a book and video about their "Fish Philosophy."

Their philosophy revolved around four principles: *Play, Make Their Day, Be There and Choose Your Attitude*. In short **Play** simply means we should and can enjoy each day and have fun at work. It does not mean be unprofessional, but find ways to have fun with co-workers and customers. **Make Their Day** means have a positive impact on those around us, co-workers, customers and family. Do things that inspire or simply make people smile. **Be There** relates to understanding what people want or acknowledging their needs and then taking actions to meet those needs. **Choose Your Attitude** each and every day! The attitude we wake up with, bring to work, or take home at night is our own choice, no one else's. We choose how we will act, we are in control.

Enjoying your job, teammates, work environment, and having fun should not be an exception, it should be the rule. While we do not work at Pikes Place Fish Market, and some days we deal with difficult problems, customers, or uncomfortable situations, on average we should have many more good days than bad and enjoy what we do.

Whether you use the fish philosophy, or some other strategy to help you enjoy your day, sharing this spirit with others increases team performance. When we have fun at work, we do a better job **Accomplishing Our Mission**, have an easier time **Caring for Our People**, and it becomes second nature to **Do What's Right, Always Do Our Very Best**. **Having Fun** at work should not be a once a year event saved for the Holiday Party — it should be the rule every day!

Go ahead — make your day!

Essays—

CJ Winand, a design manager in Engineering Division, and Matthew, play at Sandy Point State Park during the District's annual Organization Day Picnic.

(Photo by Lorie Moses, Resource Management)



Commander's visit
(continued from the cover)



(Photo by Carolyn Jackson, Public Affairs)

Baltimore District Commander Col. Peter W. Mueller, North Atlantic Division Commander Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite and Robin Estes, a laboratory technician at the Soils Lab, look at soil samples during Semonite's three-day visit to the District.



(Photo by Christopher Augsburger, Public Affairs)

Mike Snyder, a geotechnical engineer in Engineering Division, greets the Commander of the North Atlantic Division, Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, during his three-day visit to the District.

Baltimore Harbor on the debris boat "Reynolds," saw the District's Rapid Response Vehicle 02, and had a working lunch with a group of employees to answer questions and learn how NAD can better serve the District.

Semonite stressed the public service role of USACE and recognized the sacrifices made by many District employees as they assisted in the Hurricane Katrina aftermath or deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq.

"Taking care of America is important," Semonite said. "You have done many things to help take care of this nation."

Semonite assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division from Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli Sept. 18. Prior to becoming the NAD commander, he was the commanding general of the Maneuver Support Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Corps employee speaks at local meeting

By Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Debra Ford, a project manager in Programs and Project Management Division, was the keynote speaker at the Baltimore chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction's meeting last month.

During the meeting, held at the *Williamsburg Inn* in White Marsh, Md., Ford talked about the Base Realignment and Closure Plan and its impact for Maryland.

In addition to Ford, Jim Jones, deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management and chief of the Programs and Project Management Division, also addressed the crowd on the topic and discussed job opportunities available with the Corps.

Stephanie Freeman, president of the Baltimore chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction, said she thoroughly enjoyed Ford's presentation.

"Ms. Ford's presentation was very professional and informative," said Freeman. "The feedback from our members has been very positive. We were thrilled to have such an informed presenter from such a valuable organization come out and talk to our group."

Ford is currently serving as the project manager for the

design and construction of a \$1 billion, 2.1 million-square-foot administrative campus for more than 9,000 Department of Defense employees relocating to Fort Belvoir, Va., under the Base Realignment and Closure plan.

Founded in 1953, the National Association of Women in Construction's core purpose is to enhance the success of women in the field of construction.



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Debra Ford, a project manager in Programs and Project Management Division, explains the Base Realignment and Closure plan and its impact on Maryland to members of the Baltimore chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction.

A Job Well Done...



(Photo by Joyce M. Conant, Public Affairs)

Frank Cirincione (second from left) and Beth Santos, both from Engineering Division, receive coins from Dale Knieriemen (left), Director of Installation Operations for Aberdeen Proving Ground for their support of the year-long master planning effort for APG. Baltimore District Commander Col. Peter Mueller (right), said he really appreciated the customer coming to the District to recognize the good work of Corps employees.

Unearthing windows to the past

By Christopher Augsburger

Public Affairs Office

If history serves as the best predictor of the future, then Scott Watson is a true time traveler. But instead of using a flux capacitor to zoom through time in a plutonium-powered Delorian, he uses a collection of sieves, shovels and research to uncover the mysteries of the past.

The journeys that Watson has traveled as the District's Cultural Resources Program Manager resembles more of an *Indiana Jones* adventure, starring Watson as the professor who climbs through crypts and digs up artifacts dating back more than 10,000 years ago.

What's the only difference between Indiana Jones and Watson? Watson wears more hats. An archeologist by trade, Watson also serves as the District's Historical Program Manager, liaison to Native American Tribes, and the District's Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act coordinator.

His adventures with Baltimore District began as a contractor with the University of Delaware, when his team was tasked with determining the cultural resource impacts of constructing the Lock Haven levee system along the west branch of the river. During the investigation, Watson and his team unearthed layers of Native American artifacts, such as ceramic pots, stone tools and other findings dating between 1500 A.D. and 8000 B.C. Of particular importance was the discovery of a large prehistoric occupation from what is known as the Middle Archaic Period, circa 6500 to 3000 B.C.

"This was a poorly known period in the Mid-Atlantic region," said Watson. "Until the Baltimore District's work in Lock Haven, one would have to go south to the Carolinas or north to New England to find a comparable site."

It wasn't long after the expedition that Watson joined Baltimore District. During the last 13 years, his services have extended beyond Baltimore District projects, as his discoveries and accomplishments made him the go-to cultural resource specialist for federal agencies in the region. In 1997 the Navy came to Watson to assist them with the unique responsibility of relocating the remains of Washington dignitaries interred at the Abbey Mausoleum in Arlington, Va. The project required Watson to crawl inside many of the coffin-sized interment structures to remove the human remains that had rested there for 50 - 75 years.



(Photo courtesy Scott Watson, Planning Division)

Scott Watson (second from left), an archaeologist in Planning Division, inspects a casket as part of a mission in 1997 to relocate the nearly 300 remains of Washington dignitaries interred at the Abbey Mausoleum in Arlington, Va.

"Even the professional mortuary contractors were a little squeamish about crawling in the vaults," said Watson. "As an archaeologist I've excavated a lot of graves, so dealing with human remains is just part of the job."

Of the varied missions that Watson and his team have embarked upon, one of his most exciting moments came when he worked with Regulatory Branch to help issue a permit to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, which plans to build a new bridge at Calver Island over the Susquehanna River. While investigating the site of the new structure to determine what cultural resources the construction may impact, archaeologists discovered a wealth of ancient Native American artifacts. In addition to thousands of stone tools and ceramic fragments, the \$4 million archeological dig unearthed floral remains including wood, bark, leaf fragments and a nearly intact flower dating back thousands of years, a discovery that Watson said is almost unheard of in this area.

The discovery comes more than 40 years after a Baltimore District archaeological investigation associated with construction of Raystown Lake helped write the book on the prehistory of central Pennsylvania, according to Watson.

"Working with the Turnpike Commission on the recent excavations on Calver Island, we're re-writing that book," said Watson.

Watson admits that archaeology was never a childhood dream of his, but appreciates the impact his discoveries have had on answering the questions of the past.

"I'm proud to have a role in preserving the past for other generations to discover," said Watson. "We've opened windows to the past that no one knew even existed."

History of the holidays

This holiday season, people of various races, cultures, backgrounds and religions celebrate faith, family and community. Here is a brief history of three common winter holidays that are celebrated around the District:

Hanukkah

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, is an eight-day observance that recounts a miracle. The holiday has its roots in the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem after the Jewish people defeated an occupying army from the city in 165 B.C.

One of the first things the Jewish people wanted to do was to purify and restore the temple, but they had little oil to light the candlestick (Menorah) that stood in the temple. The relighting of the Menorah was a critical part of the rededication.

Searching the temple, they found only one flagon of oil, barely enough to keep the Menorah lit for one evening.

The dedication had to go forward, however, and the Jewish people had no other option than to trust God and hope for the best. At the end of the first day, when their supply should have been exhausted, the Menorah did not go out. It kept burning, and that little amount of oil kept the Menorah lit for eight nights.



The lighting of the Menorah in Jewish homes during the eight nights of Hanukkah commemorates this miracle of lights.

Christmas

Just as Hanukkah celebrates a miracle of lights, Christmas is a celebration of another miracle. Celebrated annually on Dec. 25, Christmas is a time for people



around the world to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ through the virgin, Mary. Just as the wise men or Magi brought gifts to baby Jesus, Christians give gifts to each other to show their love and appreciation.

Santa Claus is a frequent image associated with Christmas. He is often depicted as an elderly man who delivers gifts to children on Christmas Eve, with the help of elves and eight flying reindeer. According to legend, Claus lives at the



North Pole and “he knows if boys and girls have been naughty or nice.”

Christmas is often celebrated with food, decorations such as wreaths and Christmas trees and sacred services. It is a time to be with family and friends and a time to give to the less fortunate.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa, celebrated annually from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, focuses on African-American people, their ancestors and culture.

Kwanzaa is a relatively recent celebration, originating in 1966 as an outgrowth of the Black Freedom Movement.

The celebration can include drumming, reading of African history, educational gifts to children and a feast.

The colors of Kwanzaa are red, green and black. The black symbolizes the people, the red stands for the struggles they have endured and the green shouts out for a glorious future.

Expressed in Swahili, the seven guiding principles of Kwanzaa are: Umoja (unity); Kujichagulia (self-determination); Ujima (collective work and responsibility); Ujamaa (cooperative economics); Nia (purpose); Kuumba (creativity); and Imani (faith).

Angel Tree Program Reminder...

The 2006 Angel Tree Program, which began last month, runs through Dec. 6. On that day between 11-11:20 a.m., participants should take their unwrapped gifts to the District loading dock. Since the Salvation Army van will leave the District at 11:25 a.m. it is important that all gifts be delivered on time. If you miss the pickup date, you may either drop the gifts off at the Salvation Army office located at 814 Light St., or you may drop them off at any one of the following malls: Golden Ring, Hunt Valley or Security Square. If you take your gifts to any other mall, they will not be accepted as they do not service the Baltimore Area Command.



To contact the Salvation Army, call (410) 783-2920, ext. 1295 and ask for Connie Wise.

For more information, call Sue Jones, Real Estate Division, at ext. 4675.



Holiday Party
Dec. 15
Camden Yards
11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DJ and Door Prizes

See Sales Representatives for tickets:

6th Floor-Melanie Thompson
7th Floor-Gene Wheeler/Marion Deutsch
8th Floor-Sue Lease/Sharon McCain
9th Floor-Denise Davis/Doris Faulkner
10th Floor-Debbie Cousler/Datonia Moore
11th Floor-Lisa Lipford/Natasha Routh-Smith

\$30 for first 200 tickets sold
\$32 for all other tickets



Quick Poll: What do you enjoy most about the holidays?



Theresa Webb
Human Resources Office

"I enjoy being able to spend time with my family, especially my beautiful granddaughter."



David Gantt
Information Management Office

"I enjoy reuniting with family and friends."



Joanne Murphy
Washington Aqueduct

"I enjoy the presents and the money."

Shopping safely during the holidays

By The Office of Security and Law Enforcement

With the holiday season approaching, there are many tips to ensure you are safe as you shop:

Parking

- Park in highly visible, well-lighted areas and report suspicious people to store personnel.
- Always carefully note where you parked so you don't spend unnecessary time walking around a parking lot.
- Always lock your car doors both when driving and parked.

Walking to your car

- Try to shop with a friend or family member whenever possible.
- Walk purposefully and look confident. Assertive body language can help prevent an attack.
- Try not to carry a lot of packages at once, as this makes you an easy target.



- If you carry a purse, don't dangle it by your side in such a way that a thief can run by and grab it.

- As you walk, observe those around you.
- Stay away from isolated or poorly lit areas.

If you are approached

- If someone suspicious approaches your car, honk your car's horn.
- If you feel like you are being followed, walk or run quickly to a lighted store or where crowds of people can offer help if needed.

Other helpful suggestions

- Keep your house keys separate from your car keys. If you lose your key ring or if someone steals it, by having all of your keys on the same ring, that person can get access to your car.
- Do not keep your purse on the seat beside you. Keep it out of sight.
- Avoid carrying lots of cash and unnecessary credit cards.

Additional Holiday Safety Tips

By The Safety and Occupational Health Office

Editor's Note: The links below may be a little difficult to type in, so we have made them active links in the online edition of the December issue.

Here are some Web sites with additional tips on holiday safety:

Do you send food in the mail or order fruit or holiday food through mail order? Then, see mail order food safety:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Mail_Order_Food_Safety/index.asp

How about Christmas trees? Are you one of those people who waits until the last day and ends up with a "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree? Or do you hate to hang up the lights because "if one goes out, they all go out?" Then, beware of Christmas tree fires:

<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=296&URL=Research%20%20Reports/Fact%20sheets/Seasonal%20safety/Christmas%20tree%20fires>

Have you checked your list...twice to make sure none of your gifts for the little ones are on the Holiday Toy Recall List?

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03044.html>

Do you have pets? Some holiday plants are dangerous, even lethal to our furry friends. Place treasured ornaments out of their reach of their wagging tails! See Holiday Danger to Pets:

<http://www.sniksnak.com/holidays.html>

And finally, are you driving to Grandma's house? Have you checked your car's tire pressure, oil pressure, windshield washer fluid and wipers? Do you have an emergency roadside kit with battery jumper cables? Here are some Long Holiday Driving Tips:

http://www.autotrader.com/research/shared/article.jsp?article_id=3368&refpage=safetyinfo&restype=used

District employee publishes first book

By Katisha Draughn
Public Affairs Office

As a child, Joanne Lovick was not much of a reader. That all changed when she read *Old Yeller* while in the fifth grade.

“It triggered me to realize that if I read something that I am interested in, then reading isn’t boring,” Lovick said.

Her love for reading grew, and years later, she wrote and published her first book.

Lovick, a purchasing agent for the Contracting Division, published, *Amy the Bewildered Boxer*, in October.

This fictional story is about a boxer dog named Amy who is upset because her farmer stops paying attention to her. Amy gets all of her animal friends together to figure out what is bothering the farmer. They soon find out that the farmer is upset because he lost his prize horse after the horse delivers a foal. They later realize that the foal is unable to walk.

Lovick was inspired to write this book because of her love for animals.

“My love for animals took me through some very difficult times in my life,” Lovick said. “I think my love for animals came because of their unconditional love.”

Lovick started writing *Amy the Bewildered Boxer* five years ago and finished it last December.

Lovick began writing poetry at the age of 13 and has been writing ever since.

“Ideas just come to me in the middle of the night,” Lovick said. “It’s interesting how things come into my mind and then I just begin to write.”



(Photo by Katisha Draughn, Public Affairs)

Joanne Lovick, a purchasing agent in Contracting Division, looks over a copy of her book, *Amy the Bewildered Boxer*. Lovick published the book in October.

Trick or Treat...



Children, parents and staff members from a local day care center arrive at the City Crescent Building to trick-or-treat October 31. District employees handed out candy to the 25 children who were dressed up in various Halloween costumes.

(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Remembering Paul J. Jones

Paul J. Jones, former chief of the District's Construction Division and a member of the Gallery of Distinguished Employees, died Nov. 9 at St. Joseph Medical Center of respiratory failure. He was 98.

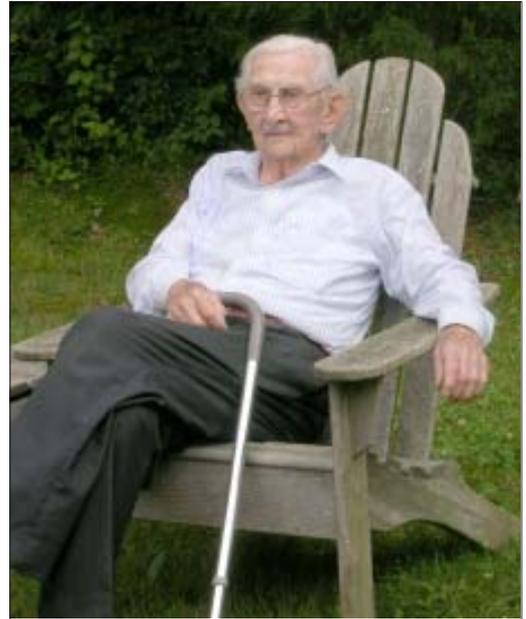
After graduating from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1930, he worked as a surveyor until 1933, when he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Jones went to work in 1935 as a surveyor for the Corps of Engineers in Hornell, N.Y. He held positions with the Corps in Binghamton, N.Y., and Syracuse, N.Y., before being transferred to Baltimore in 1947.

While assigned to the Baltimore District, Jones was recognized for his excellence in construction management, construction experience, problem-solving ability

and supervisory capabilities. Among the notable projects accomplished under his supervision were the Alternate Joint Communications Center at Fort Ritchie, Md.; the Command Building at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.; the National Security Agency Operations Building at Fort Meade, Md.; the Inter-American Defense College at Fort McNair, D.C.; and the Defense Systems Management School at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Jones retired from the Corps in 1972, but was called back to help manage flood recovery efforts along the Susquehanna River in Harrisburg,



Pa., after Tropical Storm Agnes dumped up to 19 inches of rain in Pennsylvania.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District**

Town Hall Meeting Baltimore Convention Center



**Tuesday, Dec. 12
10 - 11:30 a.m.**

All employees are encouraged to attend!

2007 Pay and Holiday Schedule

Paydays

Holidays

___ End of pay period

2006 Leave Year ends Jan. 6, 2007

2007 Leave Year ends Jan. 5, 2008 (Use or lose time must be used or forfeited)

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30						

OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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