



CONSTELLATION

A publication of the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Volume 32, Number 5
June 2006

Corps removes munitions at Tobyhanna

By Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

Park patrons, developers and residents near Tobyhanna State Park and Gamelands #127 will soon be walking near safer ground.

On May 3, the Corps and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection began a six-month time-critical removal action of munitions and explosives of concern buried under 166 acres of the former Tobyhanna Artillery Range at the northern boundary of Tobyhanna State Park. The \$2.5 million investigation will minimize the dangers of buried unexploded artillery shells in the formerly used defense site to residents of expanding housing communities in Wayne and Monroe Counties.

During the removal activities, which occur during daylight hours, nearby residents occasionally hear the sound of munitions being destroyed, as the Corps' contractor, Weston Solutions, clears the area of 75mm and 155mm rounds.

To ensure public safety, the Corps established a safety zone around each item that the contractor implements while they bring a suspected item to



(Photo by Christopher Augsburger, Public Affairs)

Sonny Richardson, a Corps contractor with Weston Solutions, explains to residents who live near Tobyhanna State Park how a 155mm munition works and what precautions they should take should they encounter these munitions.

the surface. Residents and other unauthorized personnel are restricted from being inside the zone during the removal activity. Depending on where

the removal activities occur, onsite safety personnel may ask residents to

(continued on page 5)

In
this
issue:

Children visit Baltimore District



Page 4

Deployees talk about Iraq/Afghanistan



Page 6



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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

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.

District Engineer:
Col. Robert J. Davis

Public Affairs Chief:
Carolyn Jackson

Editor:
Chanel S. Weaver

Contributors:
Joyce M. Conant
Christopher Augsburger
Angela Moore



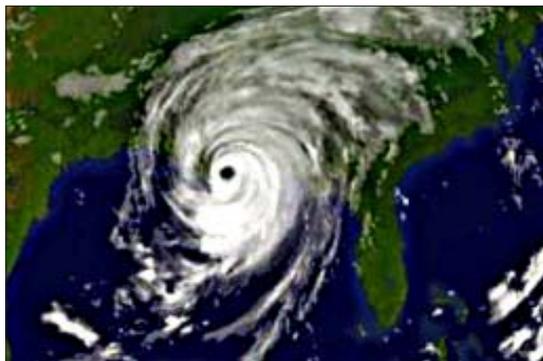
Commander's Comment

The Expeditionary Mindset

By Col. Robert J. Davis
Commander and District Engineer

Our USACE Campaign Plan describes eight enabling capabilities. I want to take a moment this month to discuss one of the eight — the **Expeditionary Mindset**. This tenet of the USACE Campaign Plan challenges us to adopt a cultural attitude that recognizes that we will be called to deploy around the globe, often with little notice, to support wartime or disaster recovery requirements. To do this, we must be agile, ready and flexible enough to simultaneously accomplish our normal and contingency missions.

I find this enabler especially important right now in June. The 2006 hurricane season has already begun and it is not a question of “if” but “when” we will be impacted by the next big one. Seventeen named storms are predicted for the 2006 season. Predictions this year indicate that a major hurricane could make landfall in our own back yard because warm tropical ocean currents have shifted farther north in the past few years. As we still recover from the devastation of Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast, we must be ready to continue to lend a hand there, just as many have already done...and...we must be ready to respond and recover from a hurricane in our own back yard.



(Photo courtesy NOAA)

Hurricane Katrina

Thanks to those who have deployed! Their **Expeditionary Mindset** was turned on and tuned in.

Another facet of the Expeditionary Mindset applies to our future military program. In the not-too-distant future, there will be a large influx of military work at many of the installations we support. Our region, and the entire Corps, will respond by providing trained personnel, with the right skills, just in time to assist us in accomplishing this work. Similarly, other USACE locations may need our assistance in accomplishing their missions and we will be called on to lend a hand. We must be ready to make adjustments in our normal routines to accomplish this work.

My final example of the importance of an **Expeditionary Mindset** is the Global War on Terrorism. Many of our teammates are still in Iraq and Afghanistan ensuring that vital infrastructure is being built there for the future. Many have deployed more than once. These selfless heroes and heroines deserve our utmost respect and admiration. They operate daily in a challenging environment and are guardians of freedom. They return with greater confidence, a better understanding of the big picture and a huge sense of accomplishment.

One of the reasons that I love to come to work each day is because there are great opportunities in USACE for us to adapt and grow. I ask that you take a moment to evaluate your **Expeditionary Mindset**. Are you flexible and agile? Can you adapt to new requirements and new ways of accomplishing your job? Are your bags packed and is your family prepared for you to get your feet wet and help others in need? If the answers are “yes”, you are in an organization that values and celebrates your capabilities. Thanks to all who have left their comfort zones and volunteered or deployed or have taken the initiative to improve the delivery of products and services to our customers. Our nation is truly grateful for your service!

— **Essays**

Tier III members of LDP visit Capitol Hill

By Christopher Evans
Engineering Division

The Tier III members of Baltimore District's Leadership Development Program experienced an informative week at the Congressional Briefing Conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., March 12-17.

The participants included Manal Ezzat, CO; Craig Homesley, RE; James Simms, PPMD; and Christopher Evans, EN. The conference also included 50 LDP participants from the South Atlantic, South Pacific and Pacific Ocean divisions. The conference, which was hosted by the Georgetown University Government Affairs Institute, was designed to immerse U.S. Army Corps of Engineers LDP members into the legislative processes, oversight, and political interrelationships that impact the authorization and appropriations for Corps programs and projects.

James Simms said he enjoyed the numerous speakers at the conference, which included presentations by congressional and committee staffers, lobbyists, reporters, public policy consultants and political analysts.

"It was interesting to note...that there are those on the Hill who understand the Corps situation."

-James Simms
Programs and Project Management Division

"It was interesting to note that at least two of the committee staffers who spoke were former Corps employees, showing that there are those on the Hill who understand the Corps situation," said Simms. "But both staffers admitted the legislative process is messy and an individual's influence is limited."

The LDP group also welcomed Congressman Jack Kingston of the First District of Georgia as a special guest speaker.

Manal Ezzat said a highlight of the week was the time



(Photo courtesy Tier III members of Leadership Development Program)

From l to r, Christopher Evans, James Simms, Manal Ezzat and Craig Homesley, Tier III members of the District's Leadership Development Program, pose for a group photo on the steps of the Library of Congress. The group visited Capitol Hill in March to get a firsthand look at the legislative process.

allotted to observe congressional committee hearings on various subjects on both the House and Senate sides of the Hill.

"It was surprising to see how open the hearings were in times of tighter security," said Ezzat. "I did not realize that most hearings are open to the public. I also did not realize that Congressional representatives are so busy that they often do not attend their committee hearings unless their direct involvement is necessary."

The participants also had the opportunity to visit the House or Senate galleries in the Capitol Building each evening to see their elected legislators in action.

In addition to the time spent on Capitol Hill, the LDP participants had the opportunity to network with their peers. Networking events included a guided tour of Arlington National Cemetery and the National Mall, as well as a final dinner as a group.

Craig Homesley said he enjoyed interacting with fellow Corps employees.

"It was great to be able to discuss Corps issues and LDP programs with such a wide variety of folks from across the nation," said Homesley.

Editor's Note: Baltimore District employees who are interested in the LDP should contact any of the participants for more information on the program.



From l to r, Alex Petersen, grandson of Susan Platt, OC; Sean Tully, son of Bill Tully, EN; Dylan Robertson, grandson of Cathey Robertson, CT; and Jack Petersen, grandson of Susan Platt, OC; get a kick out of adjusting video cameras in the control room. The children toured the security area during the District's annual *Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day* April 27.

(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Children learn more about Corps' mission

By Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Thirty-eight children have a better understanding of what the Corps of Engineers does thanks to the lessons they learned at the District's annual *Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day* April 27.

The children — who were all relatives of District employees — spent the day visiting various offices within the Corps and learning more about how the Corps supports our nation and its troops.

Maj. John K. Baker, deputy district engineer for support operations, officially welcomed the children to the City Crescent Building. He asked them to point out symbols on his uniform, and subsequently used these symbols to tell the Corps story.

Armed with knowledge (and candy from Baker) the youngsters went to a conference room where Ben Wible, a civil engineer in Engineering Division, explained site plans and Alison Kerr, an architect in Engineering Division, taught the children how architects perform their jobs.

Later that morning, the young visitors were allowed to build their own models of a home. While most of the children stuck to building models of houses, the creative juices were definitely flowing.

Collin Chen, 10-year-old grandson of Sun Chen, EN, made

a model of a fort and Jonathan Maguire, 14-year-old son of Ellen Maguire, PL, made a model of a TV building.

During the afternoon session, Officer Brian Roy, a security officer in the City Crescent Building, gave the children a tour of the security area. He allowed the youngsters to see how the security guards scan packages that come into the building, and he gave each youngster an opportunity to monitor and adjust the security cameras.

"Our cameras act as an additional security guard, and they allow us to monitor different locations at the same time," explained Roy. "The technology here is very efficient."

After the children toured the security area, they visited the FEDS Fitness Center where they were able to release their energy by working out on the machines and playing kickball.

Finally, the youngsters toured some of the offices within the

CCB to get a feel for an office environment and meet more of the District's employees.

Many of the children said their day was quite productive.

Kimberly Brewton, 10-year-old daughter of Kim Brewton, a specialist in the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, said she enjoyed her tour of the security area the most.

"I liked looking at the security cameras because they had high-tech stuff," said Brewton. "I saw the garage and I liked spying on people walking down the street."

"I liked looking at the security cameras because they had high-tech stuff."

-Kimberly Brewton
Daughter of Kim Brewton, EEO

Tobyhanna (continued from cover)

leave their home for up to eight hours at a time.

“Safety zones are set up to protect the public in the unlikely event of an accidental detonation during the removal activities,” said Paul Greene, the Corps’ ordnance and explosives safety specialist team leader. “The size of the zone is dependent on the most hazardous item which could be encountered based on historical documents and research,” he said.

Because of the potential impact to residents and the communities of Lake Watawga and Lakeview Estates, the Corps held an open house April 28 to provide the community an opportunity to ask questions and address any concerns posed by the ordnance remedial actions.

“This was part of an aggressive public involvement plan, which also included the distribution of fact sheets through mass mailing to affected residents and a media day to demonstrate the instrumentation,” said Nicki Fatherly, the Corps’ project manager. “We’ve worked with the community throughout each phase of the project to minimize any impact to their daily lives,” she said.

Fatherly said that the Corps and its contractor are working with each

individual resident with a home inside the safety zone to identify their issues should the Corps need to temporarily relocate them.

This recent TCRA is part of a more comprehensive response developed by the Corps to address unexploded ordnance discovered at the park and gamelands. In 2003, the Corps teamed with PADEP to perform a remedial investigation and feasibility study that determined the extent and cost to

address future munitions and explosives of concern at the state park and gamelands. The Corps completed the study in 2005 and determined that an ordnance remedial action was needed. Future response actions at the park and gamelands will likely include a combination of removal activities and community education programs. The Corps expects to release the final alternatives in a decision document in 2007.



(Photo by Christopher Augsburger, Public Affairs)

Residents of two communities adjacent to Tobyhanna State Park attended an open house hosted by the Corps and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection prior to the beginning of a time-critical removal action of munitions and explosives of concern at the park. A number of residents may need to be temporarily relocated while Corps contractors unearth buried munitions as part of the removal action. The open house provided the residents an opportunity to ask questions and express any concerns.



Residents who live in the Tobyhanna community have homes well off the road and near the water. The Corps launched an aggressive public involvement plan and is working with each homeowner on a one-on-one basis to minimize any impact to their daily lives.

(Photo by Christopher Augsburger, Public Affairs)

Expanding their horizons: District employees adapt to life in Iraq and Afghanistan

By Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

If she's entirely honest, Gloria Markovci, a Baltimore District project engineer who recently completed a six-month deployment to Iraq, would say that not every aspect of her deployment to the Middle East was enjoyable.

"It was hard to deal with the aggressive flies, the horrible smells and the fear of an attack by insurgents," said Markovci. "And it was extremely difficult to watch



(Photo courtesy Cedric Bland)

Cedric Bland, a District cost engineer, had the opportunity to experience a camel ride while in Afghanistan. Bland deployed there to support rebuilding efforts.

friends, both American and Iraqi, suffer as they lost people they love to senseless acts of violence."

In spite of these challenging circumstances, Markovci, 43, was determined to help the Iraqis rebuild their nation. Something inside of her — those Army values of loyalty, duty and selfless service — compelled her to complete her mission.

"I wanted to experience life as a female engineer in an active war zone," said Markovci. "I believe that those of us with the ability and capability to help also have the responsibility to help."

District employees like Markovci are heeding the call to assist all over the globe.

While Markovci has been managing the contracts for the design and construction of 27 water treatment plants in Iraq, Cedric Bland, a Baltimore District cost engineer, has been working hard in Afghanistan to develop cost estimates for projects.

Like Markovci, Bland, 52, experiences challenges each day on the job. For him, the least enjoyable aspect of working in Afghanistan is getting homesick.

"Sometimes I get lonely and I miss my loved ones back in the states," said Bland, who left a wife and two sons in Maryland.

"I miss channel chasing on the television and falling asleep with the remote control in my hand, and I miss getting up and going to the mall or a supermarket whenever I want to."

But an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving has kept him rooted in Afghanistan for more than a year.

"I realize that what I miss are often little things and I've learned to make the best of what I have," he said.

He is certainly learning to adapt to his environment. Although he often works 12-hour days, he has found time to join the gym, tour

parts of the country and experience his first camel ride. He is even serving as a firefighter on the newly-formed emergency medical treatment team for the Afghanistan Engineer District.

Bland admits that there are some aspects of working in Afghanistan that he enjoys more than in Baltimore District.

"I enjoy waking up each morning and going to work not worrying about if I have a labor code to charge my time to," said Bland.

"And it's rewarding to be involved in producing multi-million dollar projects and actually getting to see them constructed before you retire."

Markovci, too, has good things to say about working in Iraq.

"It's nice to make a real difference in the quality of life for the Iraqi people and to see and do things that few others would have the opportunity to be a part of," said Markovci.

She said she was particularly honored when she was invited into one of Saddam's

mosques by some Iraqi army officers.

"Women were traditionally forbidden to enter this mosque, so I will never forget the look on their faces as they escorted a woman into 'his' mosque," said Markovci.

Markovci's deployment to the Gulf Region Division was not her first experience in a combat zone. She also spent six months with the Corps Afghanistan Engineer District from late 2004 to early 2005.

"After my deployment to Afghanistan, I was wondering what Iraq would be like," said Markovci.

Bland is scheduled to return from Afghanistan later this month, but, like Markovci, he still wants to experience more of life in a combat zone.

"I'm planning to go back to Afghanistan this fall."

Sure, the same challenges will be there,



(Photo courtesy Cedric Bland)

Cedric Bland (right) enjoys refreshments with tribal elders in Afghanistan. He and other Corps representatives were invited to the home to discuss the possible repair of a dam in the area.

but Bland said he won't let his fears deter him from being a part of history.

"The Corps is having a big impact on the Afghans," said Bland. "Only a few years ago, the Afghans were being executed for little infractions which we take for granted. But, in this short time frame we are seeing more and more Afghans becoming westernized. The women are voting, taking driving lessons and walking without being escorted by a male family member. I am enjoying making a difference."



Gloria Markovci sits atop a palace in Ramadi, Iraq, near the Euphrates River. After serving a six-month deployment to Afghanistan, she volunteered to go to Iraq because she wanted to experience life as a female engineer in an active war zone.

(Photo courtesy Gloria Markovci)

Security guards keep employees safe

Meet the Security Guards of the City Crescent Building



Officer Herman Hubbard, Jr



Officer Latoya Evans



Officer Leonard Horseman

By Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

The security guards who work in the City Crescent Building have a job that can be quite demanding.

In addition to checking the identification badge of every employee who enters the building, the security guards (Officer Herman Hubbard, Jr., Officer Latonya Evans, Officer Leonard Horseman, Officer Brian Roy and Officer Felicia Scott), also X-ray all packages brought into the building, monitor the parking garage, issue ID badges to all visitors, and monitor activities around the perimeter of the City Crescent Building.

While their job may be difficult at times, the guards said they thoroughly enjoy their work.

"I am a people-person, so I like talking to the employees," said Evans. "It's good to have a job where you don't always have to be uptight and tense."

Although the guards work hard to keep the CCB secure, the services they provide can extend beyond the walls of the CCB. Local law enforcement officials sometimes call upon them to provide their video when crimes occur within close proximity of the CCB.

Because the security guards wear so many hats, it's easy to see how challenges may arise on the job.

"One such challenge occurs when employees who leave their badges at home become upset because they have to get a temporary badge and walk through the metal detector," said Humberto Gonzalez, a security specialist in the Security and Law Enforcement Office. "Other employees do not want to show their badges at all."

Antonio Santiago-Rios, chief of the Security and Law Enforcement Office, realizes that hunting for a badge can be a bit of an inconvenience, but he said the guards are just doing their job and looking out for everyone's safety.

"The guards work under my supervision, and I still have to show them my badge when I enter the building," said Santiago-Rios. "We are just following these measures to keep everyone safe."

Hubbard agreed. He has been working in the CCB for 13 years and he said that he is proud of the security staff and the work they do to keep the District's employees safe.

"I've been here for a number of years, and I think we have one of the best teams we've had in years," said Hubbard.



Officer Brian Roy



Officer Felicia Scott

June is National Safety Month

By John Houvener
Safety Office

In conjunction with the National Safety Council's National Safety Month, the Baltimore District presents its Third Annual District Safety Week.

Throughout the month of June, the Safety Office will host activities and post bulletin board messages that will address safety risks and include injury prevention and occupational health tips applicable to the workplace, driving, and the home and community.

The theme for this year's observance is "Making our District a Safer Place." It reflects the Safety and Occupational Health's mission to prevent accidental injury and death by educating and influencing people to adopt and maintain safe and healthy practices and behaviors at work and in all aspects of their lives.

The safety office will launch the month with its third Annual Safety Week scheduled June 7-9 from 10 a.m.



In addition, the District has invited guests from the following agencies:

- The Federal Occupational Health Office will conduct blood pressure screening and health interviews.
- The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine will have presentations and information on safety in the workplace like ergonomics, stress, etc.
- The National Safety Council will conduct driver's safety presentations and will have the "drunk driver" simulator available.
- The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will have boater safety presentations.
- The Baltimore Fire Department will have presentations on fire safety.

For more information on National Safety Month, contact the Safety Office at (410) 962-4101.

to 2 p.m. in the Crescent Cafeteria.

Each day has a specific safety focus:

June 7:
Occupational Health and Driving

June 8:
Workplace Safety

June 9:
Home and Community



In Memory of Don Schanberger

By Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Baltimore District lost a member of its family last month. Don Schanberger, an information technology specialist for



Don Schanberger passed away in his sleep May 11.

Construction Division, passed away May 11 at home in his sleep.

The news of Schanberger's passing came as a surprise to those who worked with him. They say

that he was a valuable asset to the Corps.

"He actively and enthusiastically supported Construction Division, Information Management Division, our field offices and the national Resident Management System," said Bruce Ware, deputy chief of Construction Division. "He knew so much about computers, and we affectionately called him 'Electron Don'."

Lori Burchett, a secretary in Construction Division, said that Schanberger was her treasured friend. She said she'll miss his presence in the office.

"He had a wonderful sense of humor and it made you feel good to be around him," said Burchett. "You couldn't be in a bad mood around Don."

When Schanberger was not at work, he enjoyed traveling, fishing and visiting places where he could see lighthouses.

He developed a passion for lighthouses when he served in the Coast Guard. After his discharge from the Coast Guard, he earned an associate's degree in business from McCoy College.

Schanberger is survived by his wife, Elaine; mother, Audrey; daughter, Linda; two sons, Michael and Scott; and brother, Jack.

A funeral mass was held at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Bel Air May 15, and interment was in Bel Air Memorial Gardens.

Those who want to honor Schanberger may send contributions to the American Diabetes Association.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

Organization Day Picnic

Friday, June 16
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sandy Point State Park

For more information, contact
Heather Sachs, RE,
(410) 962-4648.



And the winners are...



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Baltimore District's Federal Executive Board award winners pose for a group photo at the F.E.B. awards program May 6. The winners include: (back row, l to r) Jeffrey A. De Fosse, OP; and Edward M. Palguta, (retired); (third row, l to r) Kelly M. Marshall, CO; and Truby J. Emerson, OP; (second row, l to r) Robert P. Hoffa, WA; Nancy C. Kamphaus, CT; and Charles E. Walker, (retired); and (front row l to r) Col. Robert J. Davis, Baltimore District commander; and Angela M. Sowers, PL.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Baltimore District

Change of Command Ceremony

Friday, July 14

10 a.m.

**Wyndham Hotel
101 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland**

All employees are encouraged to attend.

As the wheel turns...



(Photo by Joyce M. Conant, Public Affairs)

(From l to r) U.S. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes; Kevin Brandt, superintendent, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park; U.S. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett; Col. Robert Davis, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District; and Howard Buchanan, chairman, Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority, turn the ceremonial valve at the C&O Canal Rewatering Ceremony held May 13 in Cumberland, Md. The District, along with its partners, is working to rewater a one-mile stretch of the canal.

More employees give back

Jim Moore, CO, spoke to the attendees at the National Contract Managers World Conference in Atlanta on April 11 about partnering with the University of Southern Alabama.

Moore also spoke at the Pennsylvania Environmental Professional Conference in State College, Pa., on May 18 about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' response to Hurricane Katrina.

Pamela Wilson, RE, and **Lt. Col. J.T. Hand**, EX, judged science fair projects May 4 at Cedarmere Elementary School in Reisterstown, Md.

Rolando Sanidad, CO, spoke to about 100 students about life as an engineer on May 4 at Rockledge Elementary School in Bowie, Md.

Larry Mathena, OP, spoke to members of Boy Scout Troop #72 in Glendale, Md., on May 8 about the Corps' involvement with projects such as Poplar Island, Ocean City, Md., and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, La.

Mathena also participated in a career day at Dumbarton Middle School in Towson, Md., on May 19. He presented information regarding civil engineering and other technical careers within the Corps.

Daniel Bierly, PL, spoke about flood control at the American Association of Retired People in Northeast, Md. on May 9.

Christopher Augsburger and **Angela Moore**, PA, participated in a career day for The Preston Mitchum Foundation in Towson, Md., on May 20. They presented information about career opportunities within the Corps and provided handouts to the attendees.



(Courtesy photo)

Rolando A. Sanidad, deputy area engineer for the Capital Area Office, served as a guest speaker for Rockledge Elementary School's career day May 4.



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Official Business

