



# CONSTELLATION

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## Regulatory Branch protects and preserves nation's waterways

By Christopher Augsburger  
Public Affairs Office

Ding! Ding! Ding!

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to tonight's main event! In this corner, weighing in strong with more than 200,000 acres of Maryland and Pennsylvania wetlands is Environmental



(Photo courtesy of Woody Francis, Regulatory Branch)

Dr. Tom Pluto from State College Field Office measures the depth from ground surface level to the water level in a hole during a regulatory branch training exercise in Easton, Md.

Stewardship. In the other corner, standing tall with thousands of new jobs to offer is Economic Development. And in the middle of the ring, wearing the red and white castle on their shorts, prepared to get hit from all sides is the Regulatory Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District.

Being a project manager in Regulatory Branch may not actually result in a heavyweight boxing match, but there are days when it comes pretty close.

As the federal agency responsible for protecting the Nation's aquatic ecosystems and navigable waters of the United States, the Corps has the challenging task of evaluating permit applications on a range of projects as small as private piers to as large as constructing major shopping centers and highways. And with sometimes significant economic and environmental consequences hanging in the balance, project managers have to also contend with multiple external factors, such as vocal opposition and political interest groups fueling the news media.

"We're constantly challenged by having to manage an applicant's multiple and diverse expectations," said Woody Francis, a biologist and project manager in Regulatory Branch.

When Maryland's State Highway Administration applied for a permit to build the Intercounty Connector — a highway that links two major Washington, D.C. suburbs together — Corps regulators found themselves in the middle of two strong opposing forces. On one side of the issue, proponents for the highway welcomed the promise of increased economic development to the region in the form of 14,000 new jobs. On the other side, environmental activists expressed significant concern that these construction efforts would compromise

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U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

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## Commander's Comment

### ***Safety — Doing What's Right...Always Doing Our Best!***

**By Col. Peter W. Mueller**  
Commander and District Engineer

A stitch in time saves nine; an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; stop, drop and roll; Smokey the Bear, McGruff the Crime Dog, Officer Friendly. These familiar sayings and images carried us safely through childhood.

Safety is intrinsic to who we are and how we were raised. As a child, I remember the focus on safety at home, school and in community activities. As a parent, part time coach or scout leader, I reinforce safety with my children or the youth I lead. As parents, we safety proof our homes to protect infants. We teach kids that red means hot, look both ways before crossing the street, eating Elmer's glue is bad, and the importance of bicycle helmets, child car seats and seat belts. I expect the great majority of you have had identical experiences and the safety of your family is a number one priority.

We spend a lifetime focusing on reducing our family's risks for injuries or accidents. Yet how many of us have taken risks that are caught by our children? Have they ever questioned you for not wearing a seatbelt, running that amber light, traveling above the speed limit or not wearing your bicycle helmet? At work do you walk past loose cords lying in the aisle, use a personal floatation device as a cushion rather than wear it or leave your hard hat in the trunk during short visits to construction sites? Do we take the same perspective on safety at work that we do at home? Do we watch out for our workforce family the same way we assess risks of our family at home? Until we all take this perspective, we are not ***"Doing What's Right...Doing Our Best"*** to assure a safe work environment here in the Baltimore District.

This fiscal year through July 21, our District family has experienced 28 accidents with 20 resulting in an injury. Sixteen involved our employees/volunteers, eight

involved government vehicle accidents, five resulted in lost work time and one resulted in a loss of more than 80 work hours. Twelve involved contractors and four were lost time injuries with one resulting in a finger amputation. None of those involved or injured expected to become a statistic. Upon investigation, nearly every one of these accidents could have been prevented.

Last month Safety Officer John Houvener shared results of our safety survey. We had a tremendous response and I have reviewed the feedback and each of the 1,426 comments you provided. As some of you noted, a survey does nothing if we do not act on it — deeds not words. We are hiring a new safety professional at the Washington Aqueduct. This column is intended to share our safety statistics and communicate my priorities; John is providing District employees with a safety tip each day; I will sign our new District Safety and Occupational Health Standard Operation Procedure this month; and I will continue project and site visits and emphasize leadership involvement in safety at every turn. We will continue to follow-up on your comments. But the survey also identified we ARE a safety conscious organization, which is a tribute to our workforce as well.

As a private first class I participated in many "police calls" lining up and picking up litter. Today I cannot walk down the street and pass a piece of litter. As a Soldier, safety is at the core of how we conduct operations. I cannot pass by an unsafe act or situation I observe. That is the standard for each of us, we are all safety officers. We must remain vigilant. We cannot afford to fall into autopilot. We must continuously assess and mitigate risks and strive for zero defects in safety. We owe it to our subordinates, co-workers, families and ourselves. ***Do What's Right, Always Do Your Best Safely!*** This is our family, caring for it is our responsibility!

Army Strong – Engineer Ready - ESSAYONS!

**Regulatory Branch**  
(continued from the cover)

too many acres of wetlands.

Despite enormous and highly visible external pressures, the team of regulators in the Regulatory Branch did not crack or bend to whoever pressured them the most. Instead, they leaned on the law, the science, and the facts, working closely with applicants and community groups to come to the fairest, most lawful and scientifically sound decision of issuing the permit.

“Corps project managers are neither project proponents nor opponents,” said Megan Gaffney-Smith, chief of Baltimore District’s Regulatory Branch.

The range of regulatory responsibility the Corps holds falls into two categories: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. This work includes conducting jurisdictional determinations for wetlands and other waters of the United States, authorizing activities in these jurisdictional areas through individual and general permits, ensuring that permit holders comply with their permits and working with states and the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce the law for unauthorized work.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act restores and maintains the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters. The Corps, acting for the Secretary of

the Army, is responsible for administering a regulatory program that requires permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. The Secretary operates this program through the Corps while each district carries out the day-to-day functions of this program.

The Corps also regulates navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Navigable waters are generally defined as those that are presently used, or have been used in the past or may be susceptible to use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

In addition to providing expertise to their congressionally mandated missions, regulators also provide the District technical guidance during the design and construction phases of many Corps projects.

“We rely on them for other projects because they know what is going on in their areas,” said Mark Mendelsohn, a biologist in the Planning Division. “They have always been knowledgeable and helpful and are doing their best to protect the environment.”

“Our regulators are tasked to evaluate each and every decision in a fair and unbiased manner and to ensure that each decision supports the national program goals to protect the aquatic environment and the public interest in accordance with all applicable laws,” said Gaffney-Smith.

**Quick Poll: Why do you think the Corps mission of preserving and protecting the nation’s waterways is important?**



**Kevin Mainquist**  
Operations Division

*“Preserving and protecting the nation’s waterways is vital for maintaining the flow of commerce and the economic stability of the nation.”*



**Heather Sachs**  
Real Estate Division

*“It’s important because the waterways provide so many tangible and intangible benefits to the entire country.”*



**Randy Sitton**  
Construction Division

*“It is important for our nation’s commercial transportation, our recreational activities, emergency transportation and the preservation of environmental habitat.”*

# PAO grows into project management

By Carolyn Jackson

Public Affairs Office

I think the best developmental assignments allow you to stretch yourself, grow your skills and walk away from them with increased confidence and enthusiasm.

As the District's 2007 candidate for the Executive Leadership Development Program, I was required to complete a four-month developmental assignment in something that, to quote Greg Johnson, Baltimore District's program coordinator, "would take me out of my comfort zone." But as the District public affairs officer, every job in the District pretty much fits that definition. That's why when Chris Correale, chief of Operations Division, proposed an assignment as a civil works project manager, my immediate response was something along the lines of, "Are you guys crazy?!" I was prepared for a gentle stretch, but this seemed like a sure way to ruin quite a few important projects.

And then I realized that I didn't have nearly as much confidence in my abilities as the senior leaders who were my mentors had in me. I was worried I wouldn't do a good job and the project managers in the Civil Works Branch would think I had a huge ego to even think I could do their jobs.

Yet, I was also thinking, "Wow! They have really interesting projects to work on." Restoring oysters to the Chesapeake Bay, building islands out of dredged material, stopping coastal erosion, and building levee systems are just a few of the projects that civil PMs manage. Four months of working with them? I started to feel lucky.

After Jim Jones, chief of the Programs and Project Management Division, approved my assignment, he arranged for me to attend PM Boot Camp. Andrea Bias-Streat, acting chief of the PM Service Center, PPMD, had the task of turning me into a project manager in 30 days or less, including P2 training. She and her team were incredibly helpful and enthusiastic. By the time Thanksgiving rolled around, I was ready to begin.

Acting Branch Chief Harvey Johnson welcomed me to the team and Project Manager Steve Garbarino took me under his wing. I learned many important details during the next several months as I worked with Garbarino and project managers Mary Dan, Kevin Brennan and Claire O'Neill.

First, being a project manager is an incredibly challenging job — you are constantly juggling money, schedule changes,



(Photo by Bob Blama, Operations Division)

**Dr. Angie Sowers, PL, (left) and Carolyn Jackson, PAO, both members of the Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery team, examine oysters July 20. Oyster restoration is critical to the environmental survival of the Bay.**

meetings, customer requirements and available resources.

Second, being a project manager is an incredibly rewarding job. As Garbarino said, "You are where the action is, you're in the mix, making things happen."

Lastly, I learned to trust in myself and my abilities. Even though I don't have training in a 'technical' area, I do have valuable skills to bring to the team. The project delivery team members were incredibly generous, sharing knowledge and taking the time to explain their areas of expertise. Jim Bemis in Office of Counsel and Adam Oestreich in the Real Estate Division are just two of the many people who really helped me settle into my assignment.

I spent four months in a developmental assignment as a civil works project manager and I am a changed person. I am a better PAO because I have a much better understanding of the issues project managers deal with and how I can help. And best of all? My 'comfort zone' now includes Project Management. If that can happen for me, it can happen for you.

What are you doing to stretch?

# Park Ranger earns top honors

**By Cori Brown**  
Operations Division

What does it take to win a national Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager of the Year award? It takes someone like Raystown Lake Park Ranger Tara Whitsel. The secret to her success lies in a few key words: dedication, commitment, passion and humor.

According to the Take Pride in America organization, this award is presented annually to recognize an outstanding individual who invites, supports and recognizes volunteers and partnerships to protect natural, cultural and historic resources, provide recreation opportunities and maintain recreational facilities.

Volunteers make up the nucleus of the Take Pride in America program. The program encourages people from all walks of life to “take a more active role in our public lands by volunteering...It’s your land, lend a hand.” In her five years at Raystown Lake, Whitsel has taken this philosophy to heart. No detail is unimportant as she informs and invites youth and adults to maintain and enhance the resources at Raystown Lake. Not one to abandon her cubs once they’re on board, Whitsel nurtures and inspires her volunteers to recognize that what they are doing is valuable, important and making a difference in the environment.

“I am proud of Tara and our whole staff. Awards like this, while individual in nature, reflect the whole team’s contribution to the success,” said Dwight Beall, operations project manager at Raystown Lake. “Tara is an intelligent, hard working team member who brings out the best in all of us.”

Among her many achievements, Whitsel played a major role in the formation of the Raystown Conservation Education Partnership committee. This partnership consists of local businesses, state and federal agencies and a local college. The goal of RayCEP is to provide conservation education programs for visitors of all ages who come to the Raystown Lake region. Interns from local colleges present the programs. This year’s intern recruit, Carlee J. Hashagen from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa., has been a resounding success with her up close and personal programs about the natural sciences. Whitsel’s enthusiasm for this



*(Photo by Don Snyder, Operations Division)*

**Tara Whitsel received this year’s Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager of the Year award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. July 19. Whitsel was recognized for her outstanding contribution to the volunteer programs at Raystown Lake.**

partnership was both energizing and contagious. Her organizational skills were evident as she developed meeting agendas, recruited additional partners and coordinated with various committees to solve logistical issues.

The most noteworthy and valuable of Whitsel’s accomplishments concerns revitalization of the Friends of Raytown Lake, a non-profit cooperative association whose mission supports stewardship and volunteerism at the lake. Friends was incorporated 11 years ago but struggled with maintaining membership in recent years. Whitsel used her organizational skills to focus monthly meeting agendas, develop membership recruitment strategies, enhance organization newsletters, and provide guidance in preparation of grant applications. She also worked with the Friends to sponsor Lake Clean Up Day, the fish structure program, interpretive programs, trail work, historic preservation, shoreline adoption and other natural resources management programs. Membership increased significantly when Whitsel became involved with the organization.

Over the past five years, Raystown recruited 4,977 volunteers who served more than 97,000 hours at a value of over \$1.4 million. Whitsel’s passion for protecting the environment, engaging personality and great sense of humor fosters a culture of volunteerism at Raystown Lake and her contagious enthusiasm reflects the spirit and action of Take Pride in America.

# Equal Employment Office promotes a diverse workforce

By Chanel S. Weaver  
Public Affairs Office

No day is ever the same if you work in Baltimore District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

Sometimes there are good days — occasions when a prominent guest speaker visits Baltimore District to discuss the importance of such observances as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday or Women's History Month.

And then there are challenging days — days when mediation between a supervisor and employee just doesn't seem to be working.

But Marie Johnson and Kim Brewton, the two-person team in the Baltimore District who make up the EEO Office, say their jobs give them a sense of purpose.

"The most enjoyable aspect of working in this office is helping people resolve their differences," said Brewton.

Many District employees know the EEO office resolves discrimination complaints and plans special observances, but Johnson and Brewton do so much more.

One of the primary focuses of EEO is to ensure that

Baltimore District reflects a diverse workforce. Often, when a new position is being filled at a senior level, a representative from EEO sits on the interview panel to ensure that a person is not excluded from a position because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, or physical or mental disability.

In fact, the office is so committed to attracting a diverse population that Johnson and Brewton annually attend many job fairs at local colleges and universities, urging students to pursue a career with the Corps.

The EEO office is also committed to the personal and professional development of Baltimore District employees. They offer many workshops on skills such as conflict management, prevention of sexual harassment, leadership training and resume writing.

As with any workplace, conflicts certainly arise in the Baltimore District, but the EEO is there to help. Johnson said she encourages employees to try to resolve differences on their own, but if these avenues do not work, employees are encouraged to return to the EEO office for further guidance.

"We have an open-door policy," said Brewton.

Baltimore District has a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to sexual harassment or discrimination in the workplace. Johnson said employees have 45 days from the day of an alleged action to file a complaint with EEO.

Because the entire complaint process can be lengthy — sometimes lasting for years — EEO is a big proponent of Alternative Dispute Resolution. ADR emphasizes mediation between individuals or parties to resolve a dispute.

"We try to resolve the conflict at the lowest level possible," said Brewton. "When this happens, inherent stresses associated with the EEO administrative complaint process are diminished and we are able to save the employee and the District money."

Although each day in EEO presents a unique challenge, Johnson said her job is rewarding because she knows EEO is helping to maintain a non-discriminatory professional work environment.

"There's satisfaction when we see an environment where diversity is appreciated and valued," Johnson said.

For more information on Baltimore District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office, contact Marie Johnson at (410) 962-4556.



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

**Marie Johnson (left) and Kim Brewton, who work in Baltimore District's Equal Employment Opportunity office, frequently consult their manuals to ensure the District is complying with the most current federal regulations and interpretations on anti-discrimination.**

## Cadets get a glimpse into the Corps...



*(Photo by Katisha Draughn, Public Affairs)*

Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, commander of the North Atlantic Division, discusses a barracks project with Cadets Rich Kubu and Ben Murray during a project site walk-through at Fort Myer, Va., July 11. Kubu and Murray participated in a 21-day detail which provided them an introduction to the Corps. The cadets were scheduled to visit Spring Valley, Poplar Island, the Washington Aqueduct and the Dredge McFarland during their detail.

# Practicing OPSEC in the District protects information and people

**By Katisha Draughn**  
Public Affairs Office

It's 8 a.m. and Bob just arrived at work. After a late night working on a project, Bob desperately needs a cup of coffee. He puts his belongings in his cubicle, places his Common Access Card around his neck and heads to the coffee shop. While walking across the street, Bob notices a man staring at him and looking at his CAC card. Feeling uneasy, Bob walks faster past the man and into the store. After leaving the shop, he notices the man is taking pictures of his office building with a camera. Bob immediately reaches for his cell phone and calls security.

Was Bob correct in calling security?

The answer is yes.

The stranger taking pictures was demonstrating suspicious behavior, so Bob took necessary precautions to help prevent the stranger's actions from causing

problems. Bob was practicing Operational Security.

According to the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff Web site, OPSEC is an analytical process used to deny an adversary information — generally unclassified — concerning company intentions and capabilities by identifying, controlling and protecting indicators associated with planning processes or operations.

“OPSEC is important because you don't want those who oppose you to have information on what you are doing and what the mission is,” said Tony Santiago-Rios, security officer in the Security and Law Enforcement Office.

According to Chuck Tidwell, information assurance coordinator in the Information Management Office, OPSEC is the assurance that data is protected whether it is on paper or electronic.

Practicing OPSEC is extremely important for Baltimore District employees. The District has numerous projects being planned, designed and constructed every day, as well as constant interaction among project managers and federal

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## OPSEC

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and state officials. Safeguarding information on our projects prevents an adversary from knowing intricate project details that could potentially compromise security.

The District also constructs many highly sensitive projects at Army installations and federal agencies throughout the surrounding area. Additional functions include maintaining navigation channels, building dams and reservoirs and regulating wetlands and reservoirs. Currently, the District is managing 653 military projects, 255 civil works projects and 291 environmental projects. Due to the sensitivity of many of these projects, communicating their status with the customer in person is critical.

“It is important that we stress face-to-face meetings instead of conference calls,” Santiago-Rios said. “We should try to avoid discussing sensitive projects over the phone.”

For Corps employees who work at the District’s field offices and dams, the protocol is the same as it is at the City Crescent Building.

“Everything that applies here also applies off-site,” Santiago-Rios said.

There are many ways District employees can practice OPSEC at work such as refraining from talking about projects outside of the work environment, removing identification cards when leaving workstations, reporting any suspicious or strange behavior and being cognizant of what is thrown away in the trash can.

“One of the biggest giveaways is the trash can,” Santiago-Rios said. “If you have a shredder in your office, you should use it.”

Employees should be aware that their CAC card is also an indicator for the adversary. When employees leave the CCB, they should be careful and not have their card hanging where it is visible to other people.

Other indicators for the adversary could be work plans, blueprints and maps for projects such as reservoirs, dams and navigation channels. It is important to keep the information on these projects protected and to remember to completely discard documents that are no longer needed.

“I don’t think people realize the amount of information there is out there and how easy it can be accessed,” Tidwell said.

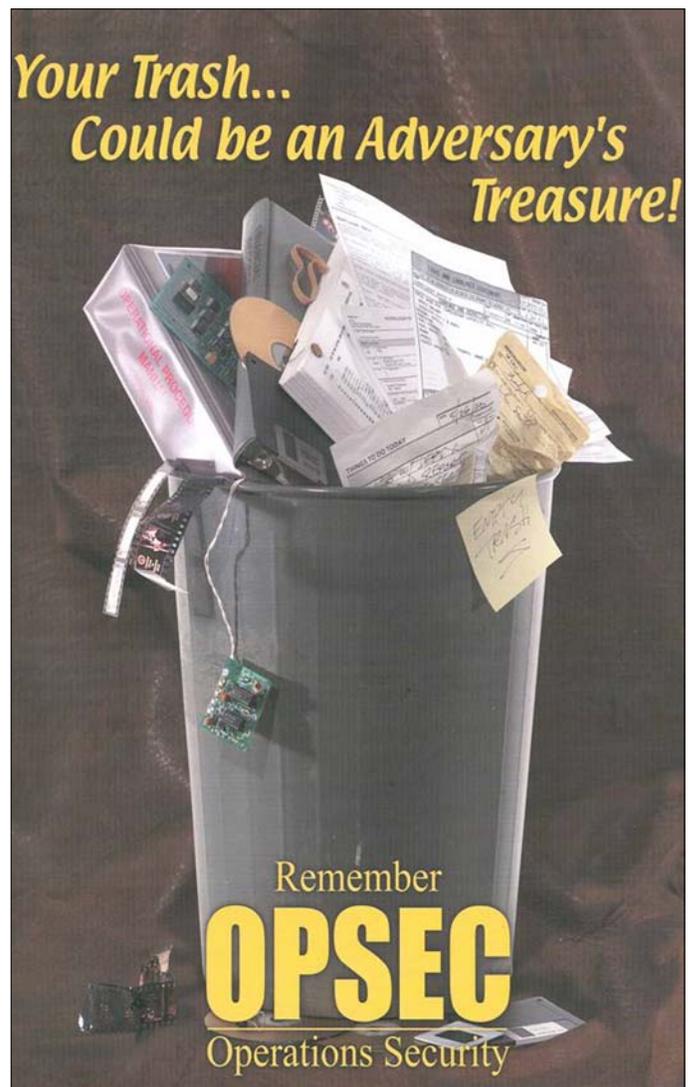
This information could be anything from social security numbers, purchase orders, pin numbers, travel orders, addresses, phone numbers and “for official use only” documents.

Not only is it important to practice OPSEC at the workplace, but implementing it at home is also essential.

Stopping the delivery of a newspaper or mail while you are away on vacation, leaving a car parked in the driveway when you are not there and leaving the lights on in the house so no one will know you are not home are a few ways to practice OPSEC at home.

Whether at work or home, practicing OPSEC is critical to protecting the Corps’ mission and information and preventing the adversary from knowing its day-to-day operations.

Being mindful of this will prevent the adversary from accomplishing his mission of destroying ours.



# Make time for wellness and learn to manage stress

By **John Houvener**  
Safety and Occupational Health Office

Making time for wellness and learning how to manage stress won't necessarily add more years to your life, but it could add more life to your years. Taking good care of yourself can help you avoid or at least delay chronic illnesses such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Good health practices can also boost your energy so you get more enjoyment out of life.

Good health is important. Practice wellness for a full and richer life.



*(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)*

**Don Snyder, deputy chief of Operations Division, made time to work out in the City Crescent Building's FEDS Fitness Center.**

## Some basics of a healthy lifestyle include:

- Exercise briskly for at least 20 minutes three or more times a week.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Build your diet around a variety of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- Eat lightly.
- Limit your consumption of fats, sugar, salt and chemical additives.
- Maintain a healthy weight for your height.
- Have your blood pressure checked regularly and learn to manage any blood pressure problems.
- Avoid excessive exposure to the sun. Cover up and use a sunscreen.
- Choose to take responsibility for your own lifestyle and be willing to accept the consequences — both negative and positive.
- Get enough sleep.
- Practice keeping things in perspective. Try to look at the big picture when you get bogged down with small details.
- Spend some time thinking about what makes life

- meaningful for you. Are you doing the things you want to be doing? If not, what is holding you back?
- Learn to handle stress so it does not cause physical illness.
  - Don't smoke.
  - Drink moderately, if at all.
  - Do not take drugs except those prescribed by your doctor and ask your pharmacist about precautions with the drugs you do take.
  - Have the periodic tests and exams for major illnesses as recommended by your doctor for your age group and your sex. Also, do the recommended self-exams for early detection of diseases such as skin cancer, breast cancer or testicular cancer.
  - Learn positive ways of dealing with conflict and change.
  - Develop a wellness mindset that includes critical thinking skills. Don't believe everything you read or be gullible to products or gimmicks that have not been proven effective. Learn how to separate fact from fiction when it comes to wellness information.

## Off prepares for civilian life

Major Andy B. Off said goodbye to active duty life in July after more than 12 years of service in the U.S. Army. He will continue his service to the nation and his career with the Corps at Fort Myer.

Off became the Deputy District Engineer for Support Operations in June 2006. His previous assignment was with the Baltimore District as the Site Operations Officer for the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site Remediation Project.

His first assignment with the U.S. Army was with the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea where he served as a Platoon Leader. Among his military decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab, Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.



## Aqueduct employee serves Corps in Iraq

**By Chanel S. Weaver**  
Public Affairs Office

It didn't take long for Irena Williams to decide she wanted to deploy to Iraq to assist in USACE reconstruction efforts.

After serving 24 years of active duty in the U.S. Army, she still had the desire to contribute to her country and make a difference in an area deprived of liberty and basic essentials of living.

Williams, a general supply specialist at Washington



*(Photo by Patty Gamby, Washington Aqueduct)*

**Irena Williams, a general supply specialist at Washington Aqueduct, retrieves a wire to be used in the electric shop. Williams has worked at the Aqueduct for four years and spent 18 months in Iraq supporting reconstruction efforts.**

Aqueduct, spent 18 months serving as a logistics management specialist at the USACE Loyalty Resident Office in East Baghdad. She managed a variety of infrastructure projects including renovating schools and hospitals, building fire stations and courthouses, installing water and sewer lines and installing electrical distribution networks.

Karen Truxal, chief of the Support Management Section at Washington Aqueduct, said she expected Williams to do a great job in Iraq because she works so hard here in the District.

"Irena is a dedicated and loyal employee with a deep sense of patriotism as displayed by not only her 24 years of active duty military service but her federal service here at the Washington Aqueduct," said Truxal.

Williams said work in Iraq did require a little adjusting. Sometimes, she had to be a jack of all trades.

"We took on duties here that would be assigned to several people in the States because we were understaffed," said Williams. "I was not only involved in logistics, but emergency medical assistance, administrative tasks and a variety of other actions as required."

Although the work was demanding at times, Williams said the most rewarding part of being deployed was working side-by-side with the Iraqi citizens.

"My Iraqi associates have been a privilege and inspiration to work with," said Williams. "The courage and character they demonstrated by reporting to work every day was truly remarkable."

## Biologist named Most Promising Scientist



(Photo by Katisha Draughn, Public Affairs)

Dr. Angie Sowers, a biologist in the Planning Division, reviews a report with Amy Guise, chief of the Civil Project Development Branch in the Planning Division. In September, Sowers will receive the 2007 Emerald Honors Award for Most Promising Scientist. The Emerald Honors recognizes innovators who demonstrate excellence in science, engineering or technology and demonstrate their leadership and outreach efforts.

## CALLING ALL BOWLERS!

**The Holiday Party Committee is sponsoring a Bowling Tournament**



**Date: Saturday, Aug. 18**

**Time: 12 - 4 p.m.**

**Location: Fort Meade Bowling Center**

**For more information contact Emily Devillier at (410) 962-3559**

## August is National Water Quality Month

It is used as a beverage. It is used constantly in the kitchen and the bathroom. It makes up lakes, oceans, and rivers. What is this miraculous substance called?

Water.

Water is used in everyday life so protecting it and keeping it clean are essential to us all.

Due to the importance of raising awareness about water quality, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promoted August as National Water Quality month.

At the District, protecting and regulating wetlands and waters and supplying safe drinking water to the District of Columbia and other surrounding areas are some of our core missions.

According to the EPA and the Department of Environmental Services, there are many ways that we can protect water quality:

- Conserve the amount of water we use.
- Dispose of hazardous wastes, such as car batteries, oil-based paint and solvents properly.
- Water the lawn wisely.
- Adopt a stream in the area.
- Stop storm drain pollution.
- Wash the car on the grass so soapy water doesn't run directly on the pavement and into the storm drain.
- Adopt a stream in the area.

Applying all these practices will help to protect not only our water, but our environment as well.



(Photo by Jennifer Walsh, Public Affairs)

A tree limb and debris is removed from the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. This process helps keep the waters clean and the D.C. navigation channels clear.