



CONSTELLATION

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Celebration marks the end of the District of Columbia Public Schools Program

By Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

The statistics are staggering.

Between 1998 and 2006, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District projects improved the conditions of all 147 District of Columbia schools, impacting the lives of approximately 70,000 students.

The Corps completed 12 whole-school modernization projects; provided approximately 6,500 District of Columbia children with more than one million square feet of state-of-the-art learning facility space; replaced central heating plants at 54 schools; upgraded and added central cooling plants at 32 schools; constructed new bathrooms at 72 schools; and installed new roofs at 48 schools.

By the time the final numbers are counted, the employees at the District's D.C. Program Office will have executed more than \$800 million worth of improvements to the D.C. school system.

But the numbers only tell half the story.

"Although the numbers are an indication of the volume of work accomplished and quantify the accomplishments, the other side of the success is the impact that the Corps has carved into thousands of D.C. school students, faculty, parents and their communities at large," said Manal Ezzat, the project manger responsible for the construction of Bell-Lincoln Multicultural Center, a campus that opened its doors in February to more than 1,400 junior and senior high school students representing 50 nations and 23 languages.



(Photo by Christopher Augsburger, Public Affairs)

Rhonda Sturdavant, contracting specialist and Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander, cut the cake at the District of Columbia Public Schools project closeout celebration in November. The celebration closed the chapter on one of the most productive runs of project executions in the District's history.

"The modernized facilities foster a learning environment that motivates students to academic achievement that will carry them through and beyond their years at D.C. public schools, which will ultimately reflect on the future of the D.C. communities," she said.

Corps employees past and present gathered at DCPO

(continued on page 3)

In
this
issue:

District's Town Hall



Page 5

Holiday Party Photos



Pages 6 & 7



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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District Engineer:
Col. Peter W. Mueller

Public Affairs Acting Chief:
Joyce Conant

Editor:
Katisha Draughn

Contributors:
Christopher Augsburger
Angela Moore
Chanel S. Weaver



Commander's Comment

Happy Holidays!

By Col. Peter W. Mueller
Commander and District Engineer

I want to wish each of you a very happy holiday season and thank you for all that you do each day to support our important federal mission. This holiday period is an important time to relax, spend time with family and friends and celebrate. This is also a natural time to reflect on the past year and prepare for the year ahead.

In my quick five months in Baltimore, I have had a good opportunity to learn about the District and our tremendous impact on our military and non-military customers. I've managed to visit nine of our 14 dams, many of our civil works projects, the Wyoming Valley and over half of the 23 military installations we support. I've seen your handiwork from D.C. public schools to the Baltimore Harbor, Washington Aqueduct and our classified programs. I have discussed your contributions at meetings with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, federal agencies supporting the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the DELMARVA Transportation Committee, Senators and Congressmen and installation commanders. Wherever I go, I get terrific feedback on our service to this nation.

Our accomplishments in 2006 define our contributions to the Nation. We had many employees recognized at the national level for their service. Our civil works projects prevented nearly \$1 billion in flood damages in June. We celebrated substantial completion of the \$700 million renovation and rebuilding program for D.C. public schools. Regulatory branch completed the Environmental Impact Statement for the intercounty connector along with more than 5,880 other permitting actions. The team completed 20 construction projects and began another 54. We awarded more than \$200 million in military projects. Real Estate Division led the national Enhanced Use Lease effort along with all their regular tasks and the

Realty Service Field Office executed \$364 million in their classified programs. The Washington Aqueduct has made great progress on their Water Treatment Residuals Project development while delivering over 140 million gallons of potable water to customers each day. In 12 months, we completed 4,053 contracting actions worth \$563 million in obligations and the support staff provided vital services throughout the year.

*I appreciate your
commitment and selfless
service and look forward to the
year ahead.*

As we get ready to begin a new year, there is plenty to get excited about. We will face a military construction and Base Realignment and Closure workload that will exceed \$7.8 billion over the next five years! We will continue to develop plans for the revival of native oysters in the Chesapeake Bay, strive to deliver options for restoring the Anacostia watershed and anticipate taking the Mid-Bay Island program to the headquarters Civil Works Board. We'll continue to deliver water to Washington D.C., Arlington County and Fairfax City, continue to process section 404 permits, maintain navigation channels and civil works projects and serve our military and non-DoD customers to the best of our abilities.

I am extremely proud to serve with each of you. I appreciate your commitment and selfless service and look forward to the year ahead. As you celebrate the holidays do not forget the many Civilians and Soldiers that will not be home during this season due to their service overseas or in the Gulf Region; 17 are members of our District family. Please have a safe, joyous holiday, take time to count your many blessings, reflect on what we have accomplished and get excited about what we will accomplish together in 2007!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS - ESSAYONS!

D.C. Schools Closeout (continued from the cover)

for a celebration that officially closed the chapter on one of the most productive runs of project execution in the District's rich history.

"It's hard to believe how dramatic the transformation is between the condition of the school system when we took over and what it is today," said Dave Morrow, deputy chief of Construction and the first D.C. Schools program manager.

The Corps' work at Malcolm X Elementary School stands as emblematic of the D.C. Schools Program.

"We renovated the school from basement to attic, one project at a time, without fanfare or excitement," Morrow said.

Following an accidental flooding, the Corps replaced all floor tiles, ceiling tiles, lights and interior paint. Under the heating ventilation air conditioning program, they replaced boilers and chillers. Under the roofing program, the Corps replaced the roof and did structural repairs to the school.

"Overall we removed hazardous material from the school and replaced major building systems creating a dramatically improved learning environment," said Morrow.

While some lingering paperwork remains, many employees who have come in contact with this project over the years took a moment to celebrate the proud accomplishments of this program.

"The Corps employees and contractors that worked on this program were not just doing a job," said Mike Rogers, a former DCPO program manager.

"Sure, there were many difficult days, and there was the



(Photo by Susanne Bledsoe, Information Management)

W.B. Patterson Elementary School is one of 12 whole-school modernization projects completed by Baltimore District between 1998 and 2006. During the last eight years, the District completed more than \$800 million worth of improvements to every school in the entire D.C. school system.

stress that you would expect when extreme and even unreasonable demands are placed on the team, but underneath that, without exception, team members knew what they were accomplishing was meaningful because of the difference it would make in the lives of city children. I think it's something that everyone felt inside, and its why every person that worked on this program feels such a sense of pride over what was accomplished," Rogers said.

Quick Poll: What would you like to see the Baltimore District accomplish this year?



Kevin Luebke
Planning Division

"I would like to see the District execute a successful BRAC program and ensure civil works customer satisfaction."



Ayesha Bonnette
Resource Management Office

"To employ continuous teamwork throughout the District."



Milt Boyd
Office of Counsel

"Get its mission accomplished safely."

District employee shaping the future minds of America

By Katisha Draughn
Public Affairs Office

“Sometimes it gets tougher and tougher to get into this scout uniform,” said Bob Blama.

Blama chuckles as he thinks about getting into his uniform once a year to volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America. Blama, a project manager with the Operations Division, has been volunteering with the BSA for more than 20 years.

The BSA is an organization that encourages the social welfare of young men. It teaches the scouts values which can be used later on in their adult lives. It also shows them skills they can use for camping, hiking and swimming.

“I get a lot of fun out of doing this,” Blama said, “however walking the trails up and down hills all day does not set well with the knees.”

Blama started volunteering in the 1980s at a scout camporee, by helping oversee skill stations along a designated trail, that tests the ability of Cub Scouts to display their knowledge in required areas. The weekend long event prepares the young boys to move up to Boy Scouts. Within a few years, he was in charge of all the stations and setting up all the trails.

“There are a lot of people behind the scenes that help with the camporee,” Blama said. “I couldn’t do it without them.”



(Courtesy photo)

Bob Blama (center with red hat), BSA volunteers, the “Engineers” boy scouts and their Pack Leader pose at a Camporee event at Broad Creek Boy Scout Camp in Harford Co. in October. Blama has been volunteering with Boy Scouts of America for more than 20 years.

Although Blama only works with the camporee one weekend every year, he still manages to contribute his time helping with the Boy Scouts throughout the year.

He has been working with the Baltimore District for 28 years, but he is not just known as a project manager or a Boy Scouts volunteer. He also happens to be a big Civil War buff. In his spare time he likes to stay active with Civil War roundtables and the Citizens on Patrol in his neighborhood.

Baltimore District hosts BRAC Industry Outreach Forums...



Colleen O’Keefe, Contracting Division, speaks with attendees about the Corps’ contracting process at one of two Base Realignment and Closure Industry Outreach Forums hosted by Baltimore District in December. The Corps, in partnership with the Society of American Military Engineers, held forums in Maryland and Virginia to educate the industry on the challenges and strategies associated with the BRAC 2005 mission and receive feedback on how the Corps can better prepare for an overall \$7.5 billion military construction workload between now and 2011.

(Photo by Christopher Augsburger, Public Affairs)

Commander speaks at first Town Hall

By Christopher Augsburger
Public Affairs Office

In his first town hall since taking command of the Baltimore District in July, Col. Peter W. Mueller shared his personal and professional background, discussed his commanding philosophy and reviewed the District's proud past and dynamic future.

Mueller came to Baltimore District as a veteran of three infantry division assignments and two prior tours with the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers. His previous Corps experience, coupled with the last six months of learning in Baltimore, helped him and his senior leaders develop a mission statement that he says will propel the District into the future.

Mueller unveiled the District's new mission statement: North Atlantic Division, Baltimore District operates corporately to deliver innovative and effective solutions to our customers' engineering challenges in a manner consistent with our values and our principles of environmental stewardship.

Mueller placed a particular emphasis

on teamwork, dedication and enjoyment as fundamental qualities that will keep the District functioning at the highest level.

"Volunteering to work for the Federal Government, USACE and NAB is a serious commitment," Mueller said. "That commitment will help the District provide excellent customer service while taking care of its people."

Mueller reflected on an active and accomplished year for Baltimore District, including the District's response to the June high water event, executing \$217 million in military construction project awards, issuing the inter-county connector permit, the Poplar Island expansion project, completing the Tobyhanna formerly used defense site time-critical removal action cleanup and numerous other civil, engineering, construction, real estate and contracting achievements.

As the District prepares to move forward, Mueller described the challenges that lay ahead. The biggest hurdle, he said, will be the District's response to the Base Realignment and Closure 2005 mission, which has evolved into an approximately \$6 billion military construction program that must be completed by Sept. 15, 2011.

With projects on the forefront of the District's civil works program, such as the Native and Non-Native Oyster Studies, Mid-Bay Island restoration and Patapsco Urban River program, Mueller is excited about the road ahead.

"These projects and goals will stretch our resources," Mueller said. "But we will do it!"



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Col. Peter W. Mueller, Baltimore District commander, speaks to employees at the Town Hall meeting Dec. 12. Mueller discussed the District's accomplishments and its future goals.

Holiday Party Extravaganza

At Camden Yards



(Photo courtesy of the Construction Division)

A child chats with Santa (also known as Cal Pierce, RE) at the District's holiday party.



(Photo by Cathy Bevans, Construction Division)

Santa poses with his reindeer. They are (back row, left to right) Heather Sachs, Sherry Johnson, Pamela Wilson and Marion Deutsch; (middle row, left to right) Sandy Motsay, Mary Hollobaugh and Karen Reed; and (front row, left to right) Susan Jones, Angie Blizzard and Lisa Lipford.



(Photo by Cathy Bevans, Construction Division)

(From left to right) Brenda Parsons, Joanne Lovick and Marie Johnson spread some holiday cheer by singing songs of the season.



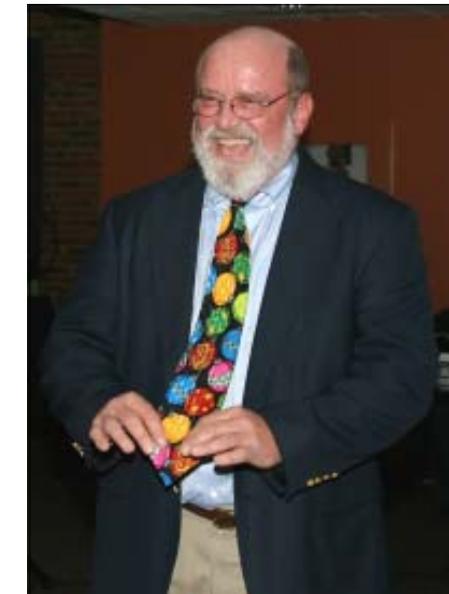
(Photo by Cathy Bevans, Construction Division)

District employees get their groove on to some holiday jams.



(Photo by Cathy Bevans, Construction Division)

Ladies of the District (from left to right), Darlene Greer, Doris Faulkner, Melanie Thompson, Cassandra "Kisha" Anderson and Sharon Roland pose for a group photo.



Pete Emens holds his tie proudly. Emens was the winner of the Holiday tie contest.

(Photo by Cathy Bevans, Construction Division)

The District's Union protects employees rights

By Joyce M. Conant
Public Affairs Office

Have you ever wondered what types of activities the District's Union is involved in? Their plates can be quite full.

The union negotiates compressed and flexi-place work schedules, District regulations, incentive awards, position descriptions, official time and grievance procedures.

Not all employees in Baltimore District are eligible to join the Union, nor do they fall under the same union representation.

"All bargaining unit employees are eligible to join the Union," said Harold Clingerman, former-Union president, who retired last month. "Bargaining unit employees are those who are not in management positions, nor in special exempt categories, such as the District's attorneys. Non-bargaining unit employees are those in management positions and they are excluded by law from joining a Union."

Clingerman also indicated the Washington Aqueduct has a separate union to represent them, because they do a different type of work and have more wage grade employees.

More than two-thirds of Baltimore District employees are eligible to join the Union.

The Union represents all District employees up to the commander's level of attention and represents members who pay dues if an issue goes to court.

"Paying Union dues is like car insurance and home owners insurance, you don't realize its importance until you need it," he said.

"The Union has resources to take something to court," said Karen Reed, Union president. "That's where the dues go. We can lobby Congress and protect jobs for our employees. We can also introduce legislation to protect employee's rights."

Reed said the Union is a "check and balance" to ensure employees' rights are protected. They work closely with the Equal Employment Office to ensure all minorities are afforded the opportunities for higher paying positions.

Reed also said the Union works closely with the Employees Assistance Program and can help inform its members of the programs that are available to help them.



(Photo by Joyce M. Conant, Public Affairs)

(From left to right) Antoine Plessy and Curtis Floyd, both from Engineering Division, look on as Ronnie Harris, Information Management Division, and Karen Reed, Real Estate Division, review Union documents. Baltimore District's office for the National Federation of Federal Employees Local 639, is located in The City Crescent Building, room 4742.

The Union is made up of elected officers and shop stewards. Many of its officers have been members of the Union for several years. They attend monthly District staff meetings and are able to listen to the concerns of the District as well as the employees. They ensure that the concerns of the employees are heard at management levels.

"I originally got involved as an elected officer because I wanted to give back," said Reed. She said the Union helped her with an employment issue earlier in her career.

Ronnie Harris, chief shop steward and 15-year member of the Union, said he made the decision to join the Union after listening to Joe Lease, shop steward, continually pumping up the Union as something you need.

The Steward Corps is comprised of trained shop stewards who are responsible for meeting with unit employees and supervisors to discuss, investigate and resolve matters at the lowest level of authority possible.

The Baltimore District shop stewards are Joseph Lease, SA; Miriam Lee, EN; Woody Francis, OP; and Chris Spaur, PL.

For more information about NFFE Local 639, contact one of the officers or shop stewards or visit the Web site at <http://www.geocities.com/nffe639>.

Reporting accidents at work properly

By John Houvener
Safety and Occupational Health Office

It's Friday and you cut your hand at work and think it's no big deal. You put a band-aid on the injury and "call it good." Over the weekend, you notice the cut is not healing and has become painful and infected. On Monday, you report the injury to your supervisor who escorts you to a clinic. The physician determines the cut is infected and requires stitches. He sends you off with the antibiotics and prescription pain medication and tells you to take a day off.

It's injuries like this that turn out to be more costly and serious than they should be. Had the employee reported it to his or her supervisor and sought prompt medical attention, the employee may not have had to receive extensive medical treatment and days away from work. Prompt evaluation and treatment can prevent a minor injury from becoming serious. Unreported accidents and injuries not only impact the Baltimore District mission, they can also create more stress for the employee and the employee's family (including the work family) during recovery.

Both EM 385-1-1 Section 01.D and Appendix D of the FY07 Safety Management Action Plan describe actions employees and supervisors must take in the event of an injury to a government employee or contractor. It is most important that you report work-related injuries as soon as possible to your supervisor.



Accidents to be reported to the District Engineer and the Safety Office within one hour of occurrence:

- Fatalities or permanent total disabling injuries to, or involving on duty military, government civilian, or contractor personnel; also off duty, if on premises or the incident occurs on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers activity or operation.
- Accidents in which three or more persons are hospitalized.
- Damage of \$50,000 or more to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or contractor's property and equipment.
- Any accident regardless of the consequences, if it is suspected it will result in unfavorable criticism of the Corps or the Army, or provoke questions by the media or other government agencies.
- Public fatalities.

Accidents to be reported to the District Engineer and the Safety Office as soon as possible, but as a minimum within 12 hours of occurrence:

- Contractor employee lost time injuries.
- Government employee lost time injuries.
- Government vehicle accidents (greater than \$2,000 damage).
- Any government employee accidental injury or illness that results in medical treatment other than first aid.

Accidents falling into any of the above categories require the submission of an accident reporting form (Engineer Form 3394). The completed form must be submitted to the Safety Office within five working days from the date of the accident or incident.

Accidents falling into any of these categories also require the submission of a Preliminary Accident Notification within 24 hours of the occurrence. The PAN must be reported using EngLink at <http://www.english.usace.army.mil/>.

In Memory of...

Craig Pennoyer



situations, often under difficult conditions. Pennoyer was always asking, "How can I help?" Even while undergoing treatment, he continued to work whenever possible.

Pennoyer's passion was serving the community as a volunteer firefighter. Since age 16, he was an active member of the Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Service Department in Upper Marlboro, Md. Whenever he was not working at Washington Aqueduct, he was on call responding to fire and rescue emergencies. On Dec. 12, he was laid to rest in Trinity Episcopal Cemetery in Upper Marlboro with full firefighter honors.

Craig Pennoyer, an employee with the Washington Aqueduct for 28 years, passed away Dec. 8 after a battle with cancer. As a motor vehicle operator in the maintenance branch, he was part of the group that reacted to emergency

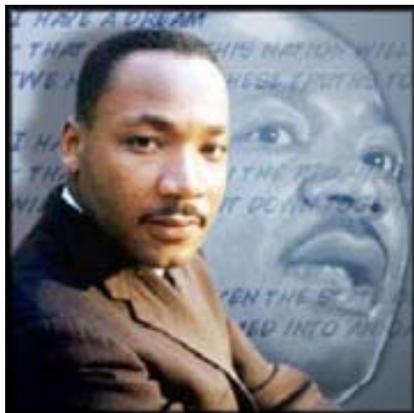
Arnold Kappen



Arnold T. Kappen began his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on March 3, 1980 as an employee with Tioga Hammond, Pa. as a Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator. On Aug. 2, 1992 he was promoted to a maintenance mechanic at Stillwater Lake, Pa. until Feb. 18, 1996 when he became the maintenance mechanic leader at Whitney Point Lake, N.Y. Kappen worked with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District until his retirement in January 2003.

Kappen, who passed away on Oct. 13, 2006, will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Date: Jan. 12

Time: 10 - 11 a.m.

Location: EEOC Conference Room,
Fourth Floor

Guest Speaker: Gloria Marrow,
History professor at Morgan State University

Giving back...



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

Pat Laird, a budget technician in Operations Division, arranges bags before they are placed on the Salvation Army Truck Dec. 6. District employees made the holidays brighter for children throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area by purchasing gifts for them. More than 200 angels were adopted through this year's Angel Tree Program.

Combined Federal Campaign a huge success!



District's Goal: \$80,000
Total raised: \$83,036.40

And the beat goes on...



Chief Edward Keith Colston, cultural director and consultant for the Baltimore American Indian Center, gave audience members a taste of his culture by playing a traditional Native American song at the District's National American Heritage Month Observance Nov. 30. Colston and Juan Boston, the president and chief executive officer of B.S. Environmental, came to speak to Corps employees and discussed the major contributions made by Native Americans and the spirituality of their culture.

(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)