



US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District Times

BUILDING STRONG®

June Edition 2011

US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District



USMAPS Facility at West Point Nears Completion

The New York District Times

is a publication of the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District



Commander and
District Engineer
Col. John R. Boulé II

Chief, Public Affairs
Kenneth Wells
Kenneth.Wells@usace.army.mil

Editing and Design
Mary Stavina
Mary.C.Stavina@usace.army.mil

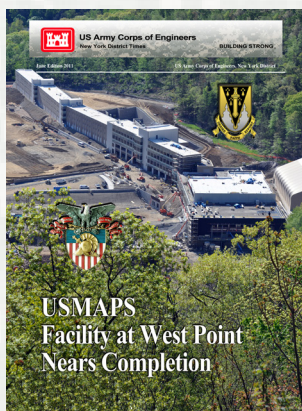
Graphics and Images
Daniel Desmet
Daniel.Desmet@usace.army.mil

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Authorization: The New York District Times is an authorized unofficial newsletter of the New York District. It is published in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Circulation: 1500 copies per issue in print and available on internet at: www.nan.usace.army.mil



On the Cover...

United States Military Academy Prep School (USMAPS) construction project nears completion. Occupancy for Cadet Candidates will start in July 2011.

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Colonel's Corner

Delivering Projects

One of the chief's major themes for 2011 is "Method of Delivery" and I think that term is a very important one here at New York District. By design, we're an organization that's built its reputation on solving problems—a reputation that goes back to our organization's inception. We take on the biggest challenges and always find ways to overcome them.

A key component of those solutions is project delivery, which really means taking all of our theories, research, functional expertise and experience and transforming it into tangible solutions that meet the needs of our customers and communities. Project delivery also helps us reaffirm our commitment to going from Good to Great. Whether it's a construction project aimed at flood risk reduction or a study designed to help mitigate coastal erosion, delivering a high quality product on time and on budget is the best way to demonstrate an organization's value.

New York District's solid reputation for project delivery is well earned and so far this year has been no exception. We've completed emergency repairs on seawalls that will provide top-notch protection to roads, kept the harbor free of navigation hazards and placed large amounts of sand on beaches to help combat erosion and provide world-class recreational opportunities. We've continued to support our Soldiers with top-notch facilities that will enable them to train and prepare for our nation's wars while also providing their families with needed services.

To continue to improve on project delivery, we need to consider the Method of Delivery and the decisions we make with regard to how a project is designed and constructed. Just like any other industry, change is a constant and we need to be on the lookout for innovative ways to accomplish our tasks at every phase of a project—from conception to completion.

Part of method of delivery is project acquisition. Alternative delivery methods have been developed to address weaknesses in the traditional design-bid-build scenario. At-risk construction management, fast-track construction, multiple prime contractors, and design-build are all methods that should be prompting us to ask the question, "Can we do it better?" or "What fits best for this particular project?"

We need to be questioning how we do business on a daily basis and pay careful attention to the project type, size, our organizational capabilities, time considerations and likelihood of changes, because all of these factors play key roles in how we manage and deliver a project. If there are techniques or processes that may help us deliver more efficiently, we should consider them as a means of improving performance. As 2011 progresses, let's open ourselves up to new ideas and find ways to build on New York District's "Culture of Success."



Col. John R. Boulé II
Commander

Essayons!



USMAPS facility at West

By Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs

A typical large military construction project might be a barracks or a gym, but combine that with three NCAA sports fields, an academic building with a dining facility that serves 300, and hard and fast deadlines set by Congress and you've got the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) the Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, is constructing at West Point.

The BRAC 2005 commission recommended that USMAPS, which has always had close ties to West Point, be moved from Fort Monmouth, N.J., to be located at the historic military academy. The 250,000 square foot facility will accommodate 246 Cadet Candidates.

USMAPS, which prepares selected high school graduates and enlisted personnel for the academic, physical, and military challenges of West Point, will be completed in two phases. Phase I is slated to be completed and ready for occupancy in July 2011 and will include the barracks, dining facility (DFAC), soccer field and indoor athletics field. Phase II is scheduled to be completed and ready for occupancy in January 2012 and includes the academic facility, athletics building, and the lacrosse and football fields.

Since the \$104 million project is part of BRAC, it comes with strict deadlines for occupancy and completion in order to ensure the smooth operation of USMAPS as well as the timely closure of Fort Monmouth.

"It is a BRAC project, with a critical completion date that is not flexible," said BRAC Team Leader Catherine Scott. "Cadet Candidates must be able to occupy the Phase I facility in early July 2011 to accomplish BRAC initiative that requires closing Fort Monmouth by 15 September 2011."

In order to meet that deadline and keep the project on track, Scott said the team had to maintain an aggressive design and construction schedule for the

various large projects that make up the complex.

That design included incorporating several green features in order to meet the U.S. Green Buildings Council's requirements to be certified LEED Gold, which means the facility will be the first LEED Gold facility at West Point.

"The garrison really wanted a LEED Gold facility," said Scott. She added that they actually provided additional Operations and Maintenance Army funds in order to ensure the contract awarded for the facility included language requiring the facility meet the LEED Gold criteria.



LEED credits for the facility are being earned through green construction methods and building sustainable features into the facility. Green construction methods include using mechanical systems that optimize energy performance combined with an independent and enhanced commissioning of these systems, using regional construction materials that don't need to be shipped as far and incorporating environmentally friendly waste management techniques like recycling debris from existing motorpool buildings that were demolished.



Point nears completion

The facility itself will incorporate sustainable features, including reducing the water usage by nearly 40 percent through incorporating low flush toilets, some waterless urinals, efficient appliances and drought tolerant landscaping.

Before any construction on the facility's aggressive schedule could move forward, 'green' or otherwise, a 5-acre landfill had to be closed, which included constructing a flare building to burn off methane gasses from the landfill.

A municipal landfill wasn't the only hurdle for the team working on meeting the congressionally mandated deadline. West Point has been a military site for centuries and with that comes the possibility of unearthing military relics.

"The site was also located within a former artillery firing range," Scott said. "Therefore Munitions of Explosive Concern was a critical item to be addressed during design phase of contract to ensure the safety."

Scott said that to ensure safety during the ground disturbing portions of construction, a technical support team provided through Baltimore District was required. During construction, one mortar shell and one Civil War-era munition were found.

The Corps broke ground at USMAPS in September 2009 and construction remains on track for Cadet Candidates to be able to arrive in summer 2011 and for the entire complex to be completed in early 2012.



From original design, to critical completion, West Point Phase I is slated to be ready for occupancy in July 2011. (Photos Dan Desmet, Public Affairs)



Environmental Education Day

By Vincent Elias, Harbor Programs

Volunteers from New York District joined several science students from Elizabeth, N.J. and Staten Island, N.Y. high schools and middle schools to celebrate Environmental Education Day. The annual event was sponsored by the Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association and held April 29, 2011 as part of Earth Month and Arbor Day. It was conducted on the Elizabeth Marina where the Corps vessel *Hocking* served as a floating classroom and on the dock several interactive display exhibits were staffed by Corps biologists, engineers and scientists. Students gained an appreciation of the value of the environment and its importance to the quality of life and the long term sustainability of the estuary.

Joseph Seebode, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management represented New York District at the opening ceremony. Partners included the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. EPA, Mayor J. Christian Bollwage of Elizabeth, Kean University, Baykeeper of NY/NJ and the offices of Sen. Robert Menendez, Rep. Donald Payne and Rep. Albio Sires.



Rockaway Earth Day Event

By Kenneth Wells, Public Affairs

The Army Corps of Engineers is a huge proponent of environmental restoration and recently New York District got another opportunity to convey that message to the public. Biologists and volunteers attended the 5th annual Earth Day Rockaway Event in Queens, N. Y. The event was hosted by the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing the Rockaway Peninsula as the city's longest, most beautiful beachfront.

"This is a celebration of the environment through education, recreational and science-based activities," said Jeanne Dupont, executive director, Rockaway Waterfront Alliance.

Other attendees included National Grid, New York City Department of Traffic, NYC Dept. of Parks, Recreation, New York/New Jersey Port Authority, Mayor Bloomberg's office, Next Era Energy Resources and IUI Collectivo, a local jazz band who provided music throughout the event. Tom Wyche (OP) and Rob Smith (EN) hosted a shoreline creature's exhibit featuring species of marine life gathered from the estuaries nearby.

"It's funny, I don't live far from the water but I had no idea these types of animals were out there," said Susan Richards, a resident who recently moved into the area.

Richards, like most other attendees were fascinated by the menagerie of animals including striped bass, rock fish, sea horses, blue claw crabs, spider crabs, skates, clams and other organisms on display.

"These events give us a chance to talk to folks about the Corps' environmental missions and what we're doing to protect the wildlife in these waters," said Wyche.



Garbage Warriors Descend on Caven Point

By Hector Mosley, Public Affairs

They came from Programs Project and Management Division, Planning, Environmental, Operations and many other places throughout the District with one purpose in mind: to clean. On April 21, 2011 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, held the first of what is expected to be an annual cleanup of the back bay at Caven Point Marine Terminal in Jersey City, N.J. This cleanup event was done in observance of Earth Day.

“Showcasing displays for Earth Day are good, but cleaning up our own backyard, now that’s a great way to show what Earth Day is really about,” said, Col. John R. Boule, commander, New York District.

Caven Point Marine Terminal is home to New York District’s fleet of working vessels, including its drift collection vessels. The drift collection mission is a year-round maintenance operation designed to help keep New York Harbor navigable.

The back bay area of Caven Point is visible at low tide and can accumulate debris on its sand due to heavy rain storms that wash discarded garbage from the street into New York and New Jersey Harbor.

“It’s great seeing the District do a little teamwork, but it’s also depressing seeing how much debris is out here. This goes to show we still have a lot of work to do and a reminder of why we should be environmentally friendly,” said Joseph Seebode, deputy district

bumpers, gas tanks, water heaters, styrofoam, tires, and parts of bulkheads. When the cleanup was complete, debris was placed in a safe area away from high tide, so it could be properly discarded by New York District vessels.



In keeping with the Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Earth Day principles New York District personnel spent an afternoon cleaning up the back beach area at its Caven Point marine facility. (Photo Credit: Hector Mosley, Public Affairs)

“This was a success, it was a lot more hands than I expected and within an hour we accumulated a high volume of debris,” said Hibba Wahbeh, biologist, New York District.

District personnel ended the event with a little snack and discussed their thoughts on expanding the cleanup effort in years to come. “I’ve reached out to Jersey City to discuss possible plans for next

year. Our plan is to make the event even bigger, so we can cover more ground and invite more volunteers from the local area,” said Seebode.

Volunteers arrived at Caven Point and were briefed on safety rules, given hard hats, gloves, goggles, and garbage bags. District personnel then spent the afternoon scouring the half a mile beach picking up garbage. They used everything from shovels to heavy ropes to drag debris to safe areas for removal.

District personnel collected car

“Today I saw the good spirit of New York District out there, and that’s one reason why I love our District, because everyone puts their heart into every project. This District is full of great workers that really care about their job and I’m greatly appreciative of a job well done here today,” said Boulé.



LTG Van Antwerp attends USMA send-off dinner

By Major Michael S. Ruppert

On Tuesday, March 29th, numerous military and civilian engineers converged on West Point to celebrate an evening of camaraderie and welcome 138 new additions to the engineer regiment. The West Point class of 2011 will graduate in May and become the newest 2nd Lieutenants in the Army; and the Engineer Send-Off Dinner has become an annual milestone to orient those fortunate enough to wear castles on their uniform into our ranks.

The dinner was actually just the final event of the day. LTG Van Antwerp arrived at West Point before mid-day to lecture at a couple cadet seminars. BG Deluca arrived with COL Boulé at noon for a partnering meeting and inspection of the USMAPS (United States Military Academy Preparatory School) construction site.

In the late afternoon, the West Point resident office project engineers, Tim Cain and Erika Keutmann, led a walk-through of our new Science Center project for executives from major construction companies and architect-engineer firms such as AECOM, STV, Suffolk, Consigli, Weston, KBR, ITT, Bentley, Jacobs, O'Brien & Gere, LEO A DALY, EYP, CH2MHill, and ECC.

The group then received a short discussion from BG Deluca and COL Boulé on the future of West Point Construction from the Haig Room atop Jefferson Hall (A NY District Project from 2005-2008). Later that evening, over 220 professionals attended the dinner at Eisenhower Hall (another NY District project in the early 1980s).

The Dinner event was hosted by the Society of American Military Engineers and the Army Engineer Association. Each organization providing a award and scholarship to nominated cadets. The AEA's "Sapper Spirit Award" was presented to Cadet Mi-

chael Theising from the executive director COL (Ret) Jack O'Neill. The SAME's inaugural "David M. Fraser Award for Engineering Excellence and Leadership" was

presented to Cadet Erin Anthony from the executive director Dr. Robert Wolff and the head of USMA Civil and Mechanical Engineering Department COL Stephen Ressler.

The keynote speaker was LTG Van Antwerp, who shared the podium time with his Aide-de-camp, LTC Calvin Hudson. In a unique opportunity, LTC Hudson (who will soon be assuming command of the 249th Engineer Battalion) took the time to tell soon-to-be lieutenants about the expectations he would have of them, and in turn he solicited feedback on what they would expect of his position as their senior rater.

In probably his final official visit to West Point prior to retirement, LTG Van Antwerp impressed upon the cadets (and many others in the room) the need for a leader to define the mission for the organization, empower the subordinates with accountability for each task, and inspire the best performance everytime by making the job personal.



Lt.Gen. Robert Van Antwerp (file photo)



FY11 Work Plan Released

By Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters released its work plan for the Army Civil Works program through the end of fiscal year 2011 and it includes approximately \$164 million dollars for projects and studies being managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

The work plan released by Headquarters details how the Corps of Engineers will execute the \$5.065 billion Civil Works appropriation it received on April 15 when President Barack Obama signed Public Law 112-10, the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011. The Act provides funding to federal agencies through the end of FY11.

Some examples of the projects funded in the four main Civil Works areas under the FY11 Work Plan include:

Construction General: \$84.2 Million Total

- New York/New Jersey Harbor Deepening - \$73 million – to continue efforts to deepen NY/NJ Harbor channels to 50 feet or more to accommodate larger ships expected when the Panama Canal expansion is complete
- Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet, N.J. - \$7.5 million - for Monmouth Beach renourishment

General Investigations: \$2.8 Million Total

- Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan - \$1 million – to continue exploring ecosystem restoration opportunities in the New York and New Jersey Harbor Estuary by assessing the ecological benefits and costs of restoration opportunities outlined in draft the restoration plan
- Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay – Highlands, N.J. - \$207,000 – to complete the draft feasibility report evaluating coastal storm risk reduction opportunities for the Highlands, N.J. community

Operations and Maintenance: \$39.9 Million Total

- Lake Montauk Harbor - \$1.14 million – to conduct required critical maintenance dredging of the navigation channel to restore full channel dimensions for local users of the channel, including the U.S. Coast Guard and commercial and recreational fishermen. All the dredged sand will be beneficially used on the downdrift beach area
- Hudson River Channel from New York City to Albany, N.Y. - \$3.63 million – to conduct required maintenance dredging of the deep-draft navigation channel to restore full channel dimensions for the ocean-going ships which use the channel to and from the Port of Albany. The Port of Albany is the 61st busiest port in the Nation and the channel carries an average annual commercial cargo tonnage of 7,600,000 tons
- Buttermilk Channel - \$8.44 million – to conduct required maintenance dredging of the commercial deep-draft Buttermilk Channel between Brooklyn and Manhattan in New York Harbor. The channel carries an average annual commercial cargo tonnage of 30,000 tons

FUSRAP (Formerly Utilized Site Remediation Action Plan): \$36.6 Million Total

- Maywood - \$35 million – to continue environmental remediation activities at the Maywood FUSRAP site in northeastern New Jersey
- Sylvania Corning – \$1.24 million – to continue remedial investigation work at the Sylvania Corning FUSRAP site on Long Island
-

Visit <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/cbb/index.php> for a complete look at the FY11 budget.



It Takes A Village

By Christopher Gardner, Public Affairs

Working on a \$1.04 billion project is never easy, particularly one as complicated as the BRAC 133 in Alexandria, Va., however the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, continues to move closer to the day when it will be able unlock the doors and provide government employees with a state-of-the-art facility from which to do business.

BRAC 133, it was the 133rd recommendation in the BRAC 2005 law, is part of the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment commission's recommendations. The project will result in the construction of two office towers of 17 and 15 stories, two parking garages with 3750 spaces, a visitor center and a remote inspection facility for security. In order to get the project completed by its September 2011 deadline, the Army Corps requires a large number of people working in unison.

About how many people on a given day? An estimated 1,500 people are working in synch every day as part of the construction, which includes everything from project managers and planners to hundreds of men and women doing everything from installing dry wall and electrical work to planting environmentally friendly agriculture. Combined, they are carrying out more than \$1 million a day in work.

The daily strength of general construction workers onsite averages about 1,220; including supervisors, carpenters, steel workers, heavy machine operators and others required to construct such a massive facility.

"It's pretty impressive how many people are involved in the successful construction of this building," said Sean Wachutka, BRAC 133 program manager.

On top of that, the building still needs to be fitted on the inside to be ready for duty. That includes having the appropriate wiring and cabling installed for

phones, computers and security among other things. Approximately 200 to 250 people are carrying that work out every day. The computer cabling alone totals more than 700 miles, which could stretch from the complex in Alexandria all the way to Chicago.

Jason Betteker, a project executive with Clark Construction Group provides day-to-day management of the firm's project team. He lives in Reston, Va. and is very pleased to be working on this project because his father was a career officer with the Army Corps of Engineers. "It's been a great collaboration and partnership between the



Dwayne Queen, an insulator with TBN-TRA Insulators, installs pipe insulation at the BRAC 133 project site.

Army Corps and all of the contractors. Not that it's miraculous or amazing, it's just the attitude everyone brought to the project two years ago. We faced the challenge to get the project completed as a team. This is a testament to where we are today. The project is on schedule, has a first rate security record and is saving a lot of money. In the end, we're going to have a happy client in a world class facility."

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Army Corps begins Sebrings Mills Bridge Raising Project in Middlesex County

By Kenneth Wells, Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, took another positive step in its flood risk management efforts by recently beginning work along the Sebrings Mills bridge area in Middlesex County, New Jersey. The work is part of the larger flood risk management system being constructed in the Green Brook sub-basin and is the first portion of the system being constructed in Middlesex County.

The Green Brook sub-basin is located within the Raritan River Basin in north-central New Jersey in the counties of Middlesex, Somerset and Union. It encompasses 13 municipalities and drains approximately 65 square miles of primarily urban and industrialized area. For the majority of the project area, the most damaging floods of record resulted from the August 2, 1973 storm, Tropical Storm Floyd on September 16, 1999 and April 15-17 2007 Nor'easter. Eight deaths were attributed to these floods.

The Green Brook, N.J. Flood Control Project is currently being constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with Somerset and Middlesex Counties. The overall Green Brook project is being built in phases, with various features already having been constructed or currently under construction, specifically within the Borough of Bound Brook. It is expected that the overall Bound Brook portion of the project will be completed by the end of 2012.

The project is now moving forward with construction of new features in the Borough of Middlesex at the Sebrings Mills bridge area. Construction includes the raising of the Sebrings Mills Bridge, construction of a levee and pump station upstream of the bridge, and construction of a floodwall downstream of the bridge. This construction contract is the first in a series of multiple contracts that will be necessary in order to provide Middlesex with flood risk reduction.

To date approximately \$125 million has been spent in constructing levees, floodwalls, pump stations,

closure structures, bridge modifications, and flood proofing within the Borough of Bound Brook and for this initial construction in the Borough of Middlesex. All of the completed features within Bound Brook performed admirably during the recent March 2011 storm events.

"The Army Corps has made some important advances in recent years in flood risk reduction for the folks in the Bound Brook portion of the Green Brook sub basin, which I'm extremely proud of, but this project has a much larger scope than that and aims to protect even more people and their homes," said New York District Commander Col. John R. Boulé. "I'm proud to be able to keep this project moving forward and expanding into providing flood risk reduction for even more New Jersey communities."

The Sebrings Mills contract is scheduled to cost \$20 million. This construction contract is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly referred to as the "Stimulus Package," with approximately \$15 million being stimulus money and \$5 million being State of New Jersey funding. The contractor for the construction effort at Sebrings Mills is Montana Construction Corporation of Lodi, N.J., and it is anticipated that construction of this initial segment will be completed within three years.



Employee Spotlight

1. Where do you work at the District?

I work in the Environmental Analysis Branch, Planning Division.

2. How long have you worked for the Corps?

March 30, 2011 was my 19th anniversary with the Corps, and the New York District

3. In your own words, what is your job? What do you do?

My job is to provide supervision and oversight to Watershed Section team members in the conduct of environmental and cultural resources investigations and studies. We undertake impact assessments and ensure compliance of the District's flood risk management projects with federal and state regulations. I also periodically work on projects with historic property impacts to maintain some technical expertise.



Nancy Brighton
Environmental Branch

4. What do you love about your job?

The uniqueness of the projects. I like to take the approach that each project is a puzzle for which we need to figure out the solution. That keeps me interested in what I do.

5. How do you see your job making a difference and contributing to Corps success?

The Environmental Analysis Branch is responsible for the compliance of Corps' Civil Works projects with the various federal and state laws in place to consider and safeguard the environmental and historic resources. This often means balancing competing wants and needs of a variety of stakeholders. I would like to think that by working closely with the other Divisions, particularly Engineering and Construction, it helps the project fit community needs rather than impose on the landscape.

6. Any special moments/memories about your job you'd like to share?

The first would have to be meeting my husband, Nick Panasiuk, who worked at the District from 1987-1994 as a project economist in Planning Division before accepting a position at North Atlantic Division. In the mid 1990s, there was a group of us who used to go out to Happy Hours (cheap drinks and free snacks) and our relationship grew from those get-togethers. Other great memories include helicopter rides I took in Iraq and Afghanistan, being a part of the ceremonies at the African Burial Ground, being part of projects at the U.S. Military Academy and also the opportunity I had to work on the Mass Graves Investigation Team in Iraq, which resulted in the testimony against Sadaam Hussein. This was a once in a lifetime experience. But most of all, I have great memories of the different people I have worked with. Working with such wonderful people makes the job truly enjoyable.



Federal Employee News in Brief

MILITARY: A House Armed Services subcommittee says it will include a 1.6 percent pay raise for military members in its version of the 2012 Defense authorization bill. The figure is the same as President Obama's request in his fiscal 2012 budget proposal. It's slightly more than the president's fiscal 2011 request of 1.4 percent, which Congress recently approved. The two year pay freeze for civilian federal workers does not apply to service members. Military service members would be able to sock away money for health care and other expenses in flexible savings accounts under a bipartisan bill House and Senate lawmakers unveiled recently. Currently, civilian federal employees can use flexible spending accounts, which allow them to set aside a portion of their income before taxes, to cover out-of-pocket expenses such as health co-payments, and dental and eye care.

DOCKING PAY: Lawmakers and the Obama administration continue to seek ways to shrink the government's deficit, and federal employee pay continues to be a target. OPM published a proposed rule in the Federal Register that would eliminate the 10-year statute of limitations on garnishing the wages of federal employees who owe the government money. The rule also clarifies that the amount deducted from paychecks cannot exceed 15 percent of disposable pay, unless a court has ordered a larger deduction, or an employee agrees in writing to a bigger cut. The proposed regulation, which was mandated by an amendment to the 2008 Food, Conservation and Energy Act, would apply to current debts older than a decade. "For these debts, creditor agencies must certify to the secretary of the Treasury that the notice of intent to offset was sent to the debtor after the debt became 10 years delinquent," the notice stated. "This is intended to alert the debtor that his or her debt may now be collected by offset and allows the debtor additional opportunities to dispute the debt, enter into a repayment agreement, or otherwise avoid offset." The term offset in this case refers to wage garnishment.

FERS: The Public-Private Employee Retirement Act of 2011, introduced by U.S. Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) along with Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) addresses long-term liabilities facing the federal government. The legislation would end the defined benefit pension portion of the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) for new federal government hires starting in 2013, leaving in place the Thrift Savings Plan with the current match (up to 5%) for both current and future federal workers. This bill would also apply to Members of Congress. Current federal government employees and retirees would not be impacted by the changes in the bill.

HIRING: U.S. Rep. Tom Marino (R-PA) introduced legislation on May 5 that would freeze most federal hiring until the federal deficit is eliminated. The proposed freeze would affect all federal agencies except the U.S. Postal Service and Postal Regulatory Commission; federal law-enforcement positions, the reassignment of personnel within the same agency, short term, season or transitional positions. If passed the bill would go into effect for the first fiscal year after its passage.



It Takes A Village Cont'd

No massive office complex is ready for service if it's empty on the inside, which is why New York District awarded \$33 million in contracts to furnish the facility with everything from chairs and desks to cabinets and cubicle walls. That furniture selection, procurement and installation work is being managed and carried out by an additional 70 people, not including the production and delivery of the furniture.

Support services also play a key role on this type of project, whether it's personnel issues handled by human resources or procurements issues that are performed by the Corps of Engineers real estate division. Civil servants and contractors working in New York District's BRAC 133 Integrated Program Office [IPO] in Alexandria, also serve as the primary point of contact for oversight and management

The IPO by design is staffed with many of the speciality skills needed by a project of this size and complexity to include engineers, designers, planners and architects. On top of making sure the entire project runs smoothly, there are many supporting tasks where people work on everything from transportation issues to programming of actual office space by agency to ensure all needs are met.

"One thing I enjoy about this project, as do many in the construction industry, is that we are building a tangible asset," said John Van Vliet, vice president of construction, government solutions group, Duke Realty. "I can actually see it – it's not paper or widgets. It's something. It's nice to be able to drive around my neighborhood and point to this building and tell my kids that Dad worked on that." The cost of the BRAC 133 project is \$1.04 billion. It's being constructed by Duke Realty, located in Indianapolis, and is scheduled to be completed by September 2011.

Little Dresses for AFRICA

Little dresses for Africa is a non-profit organization which collects supplies and/or dresses, many made out of ordinary pillow cases, and distributes them to little girls in Central Africa. Also, through their "Britches for Boys" program, the organization distributes shorts to young boys.

After hearing about this program on NBC News' website, Corps employees. Ellen Simon, Lorraine Lee and Kally Eastman have been buying pillowcases, material, and notions and coordinating this endeavor with Lorraine's mother, Joyce, and Planning Division's Carrie McCabe, have been sewing up a storm. Their creations could easily be sold in a children's boutique.

